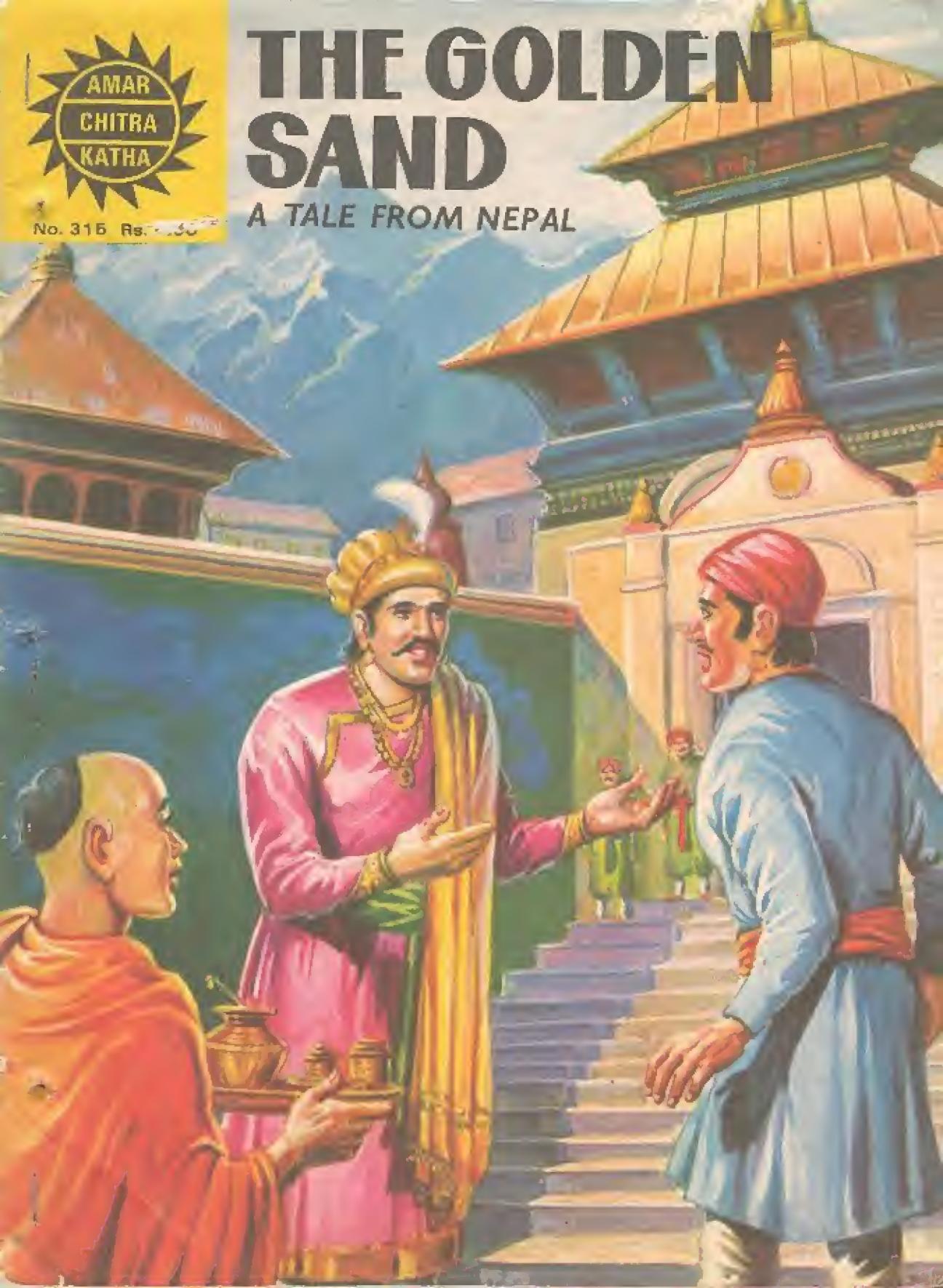




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THE GOLDEN SAND

A TALE FROM NEPAL



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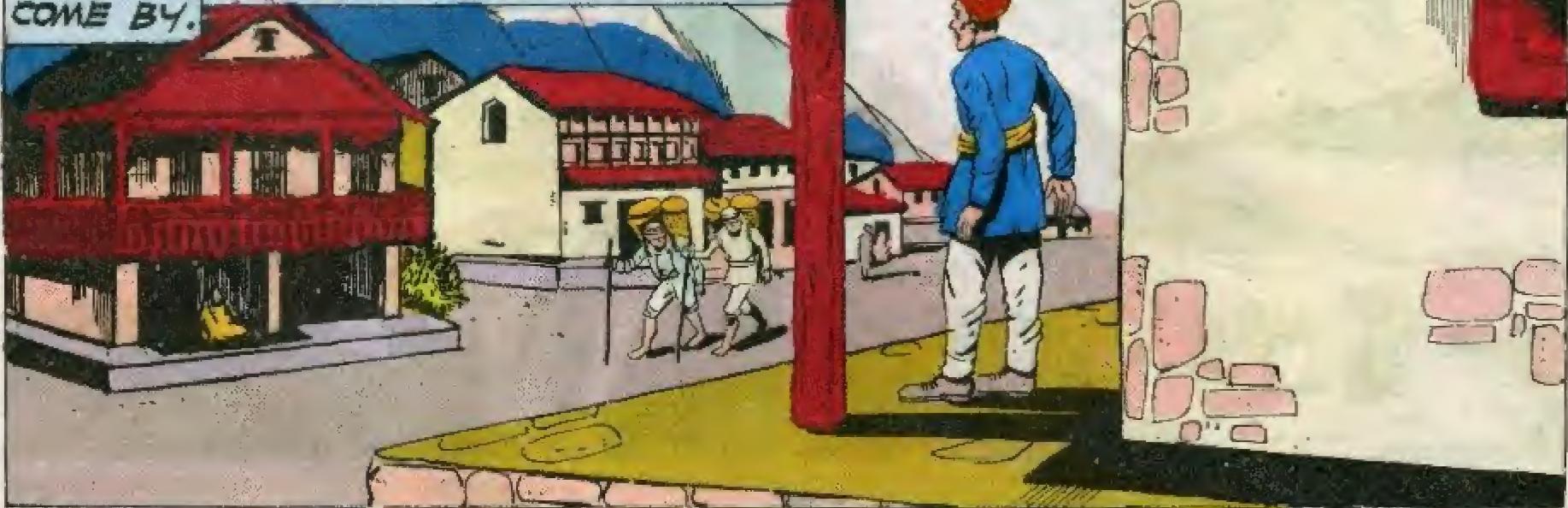
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THE GOLDEN SAND

WHEN SAKHWAL, A SAND-MERCHANT OF KATHMANDU, STEPPED OUT OF HIS HOUSE ONE MORNING, HE SAW TWO LABOURERS COME BY.

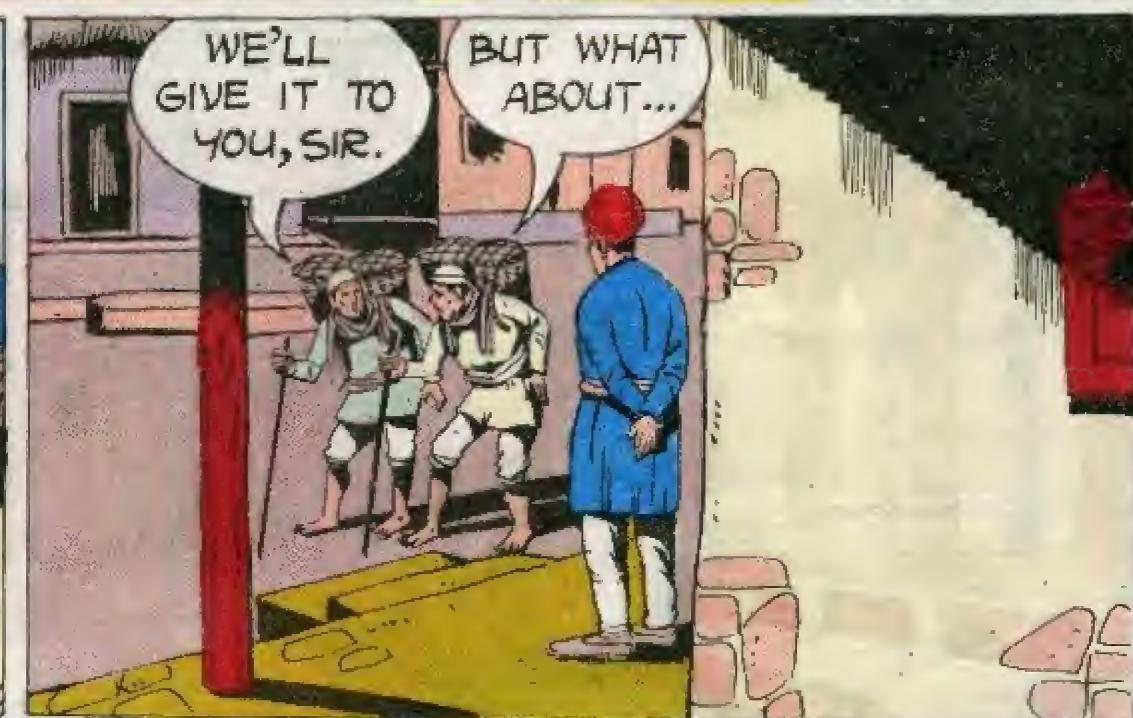
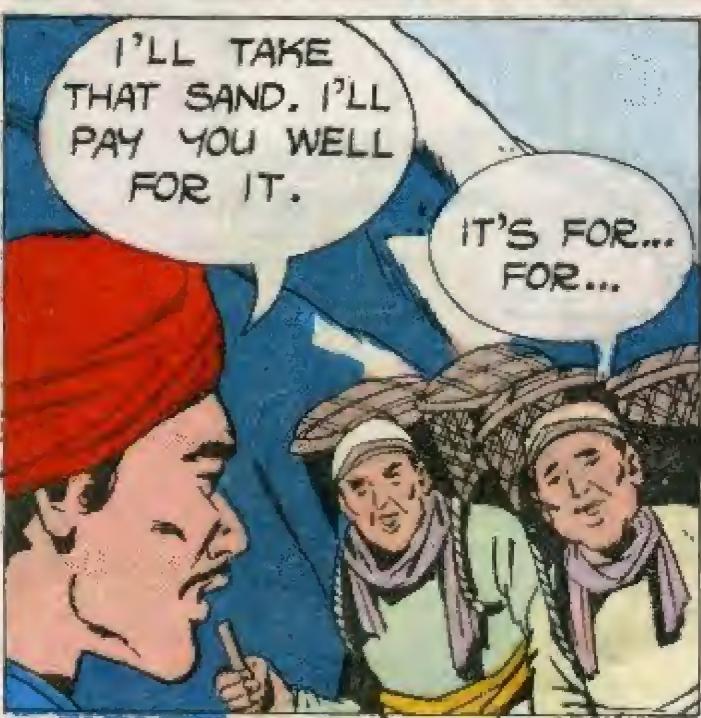


I'LL TAKE THAT SAND. I'LL PAY YOU WELL FOR IT.

IT'S FOR... FOR...

WE'LL GIVE IT TO YOU, SIR.

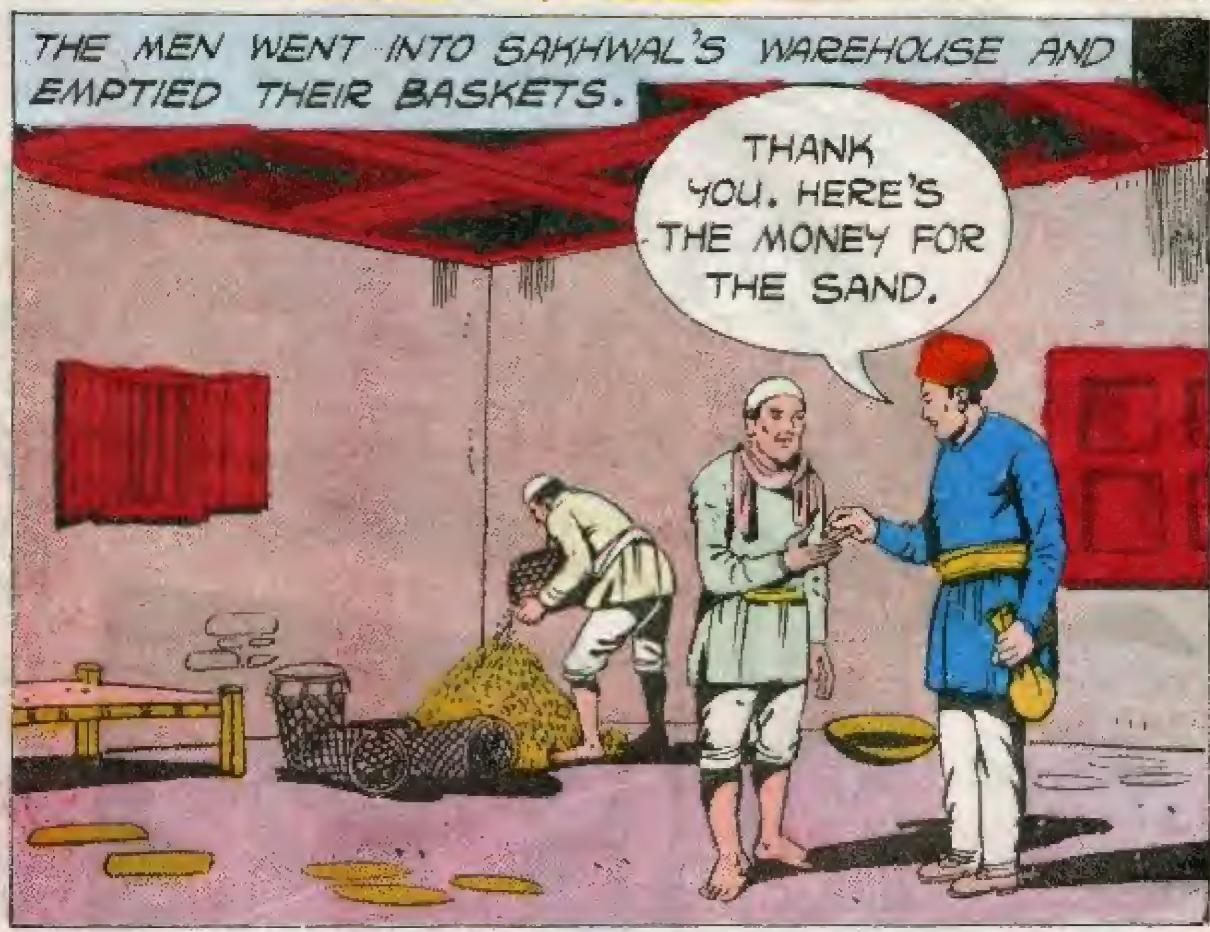
BUT WHAT ABOUT...



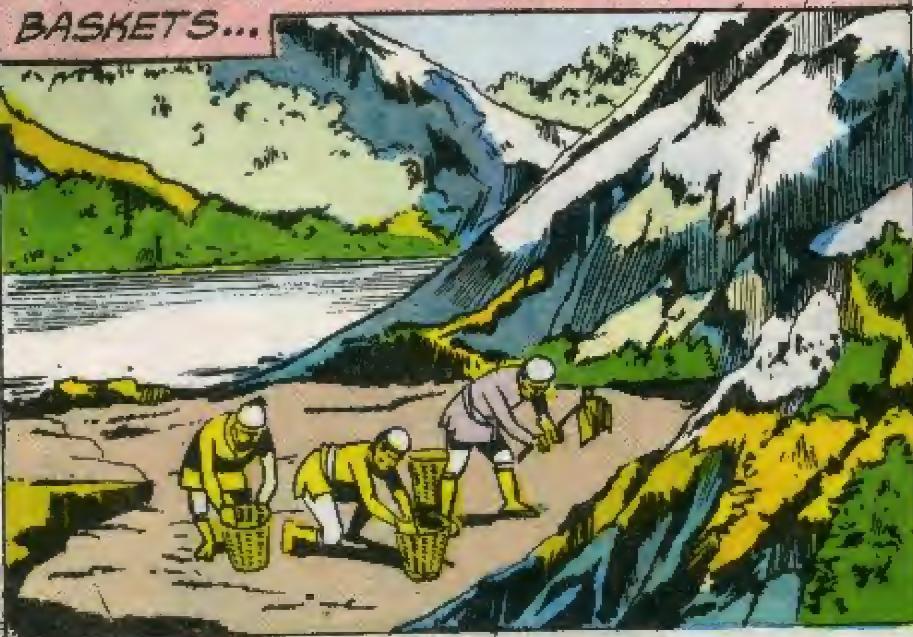
SSSH! WE CAN ALWAYS GO BACK AND GET SOME MORE FOR THE KING.

THE MEN WENT INTO SAKHWAL'S WAREHOUSE AND EMPTIED THEIR BASKETS.

THANK YOU. HERE'S THE MONEY FOR THE SAND.



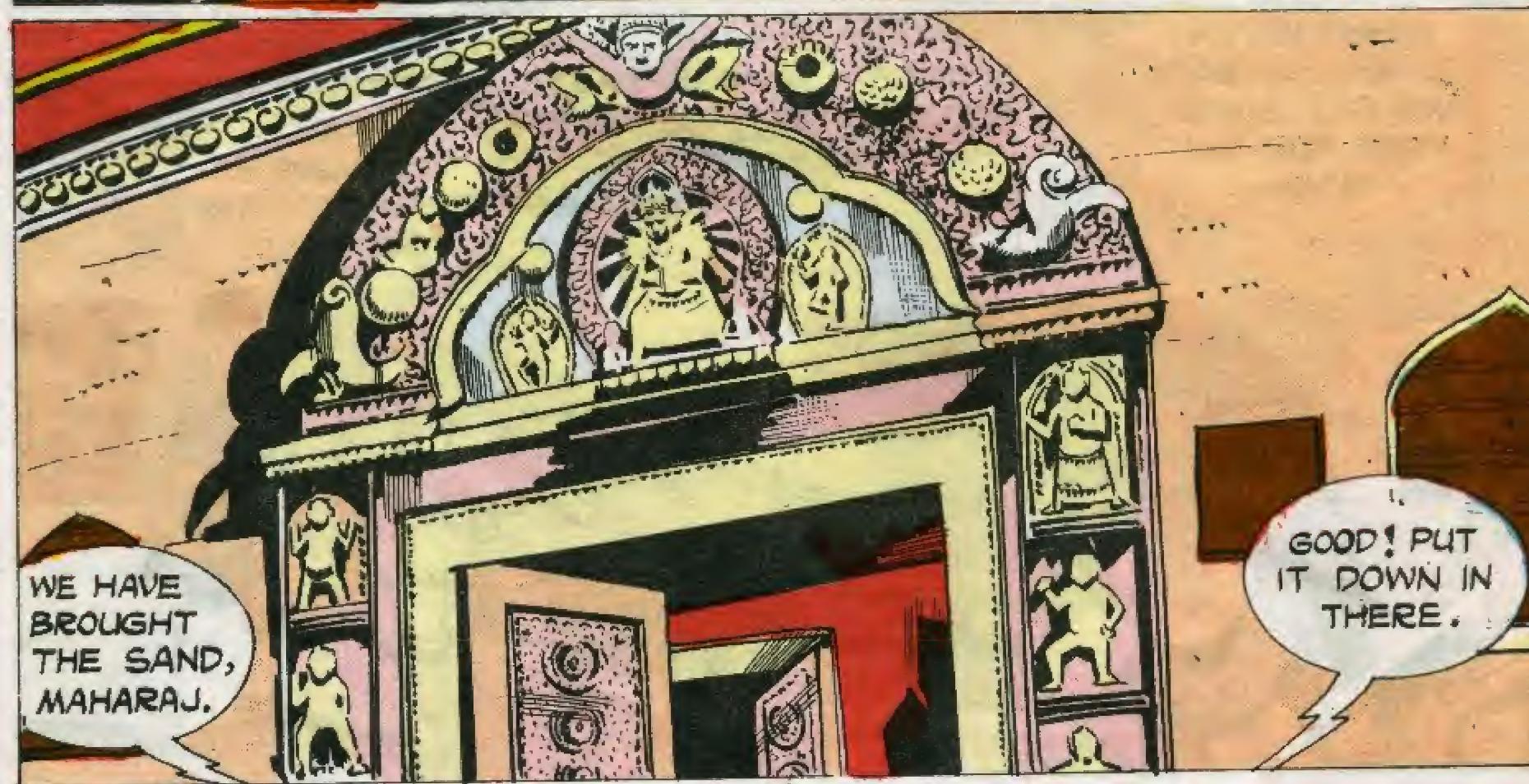
THEN THEY WENT BACK TO LAKHU, THE PILGRIM CENTRE SITUATED AT THE CONFLUENCE OF THE RIVERS BHATIKHU AND VISHNUMATI, REFILLED THEIR BASKETS...



...AND CARRIED THEM...



...TO THE PALACE OF THE KING OF BHADGAO*.



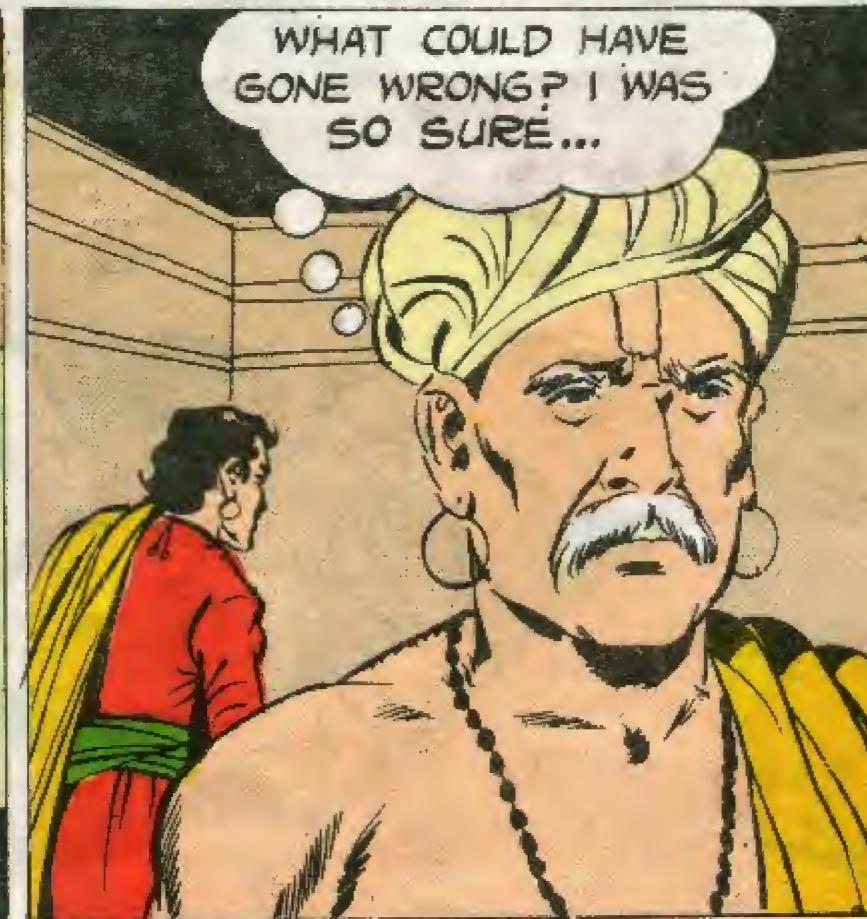
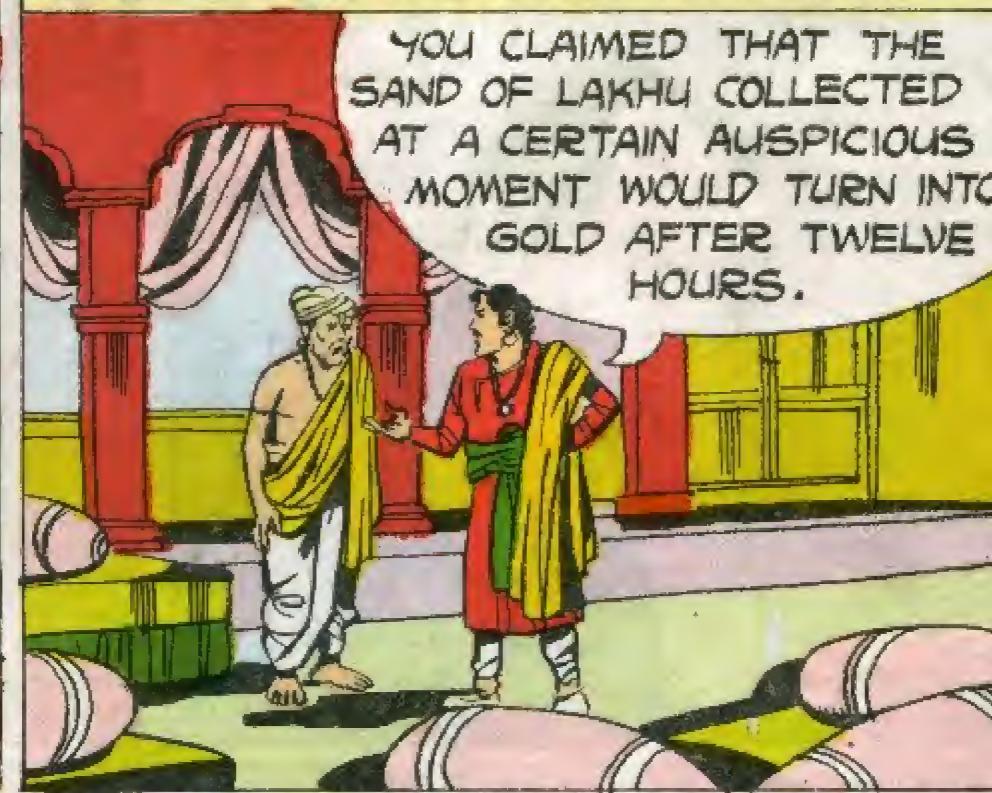
A FEW HOURS LATER—



THE KING EXAMINED THE CONTENTS
OF ALL THE BASKETS.

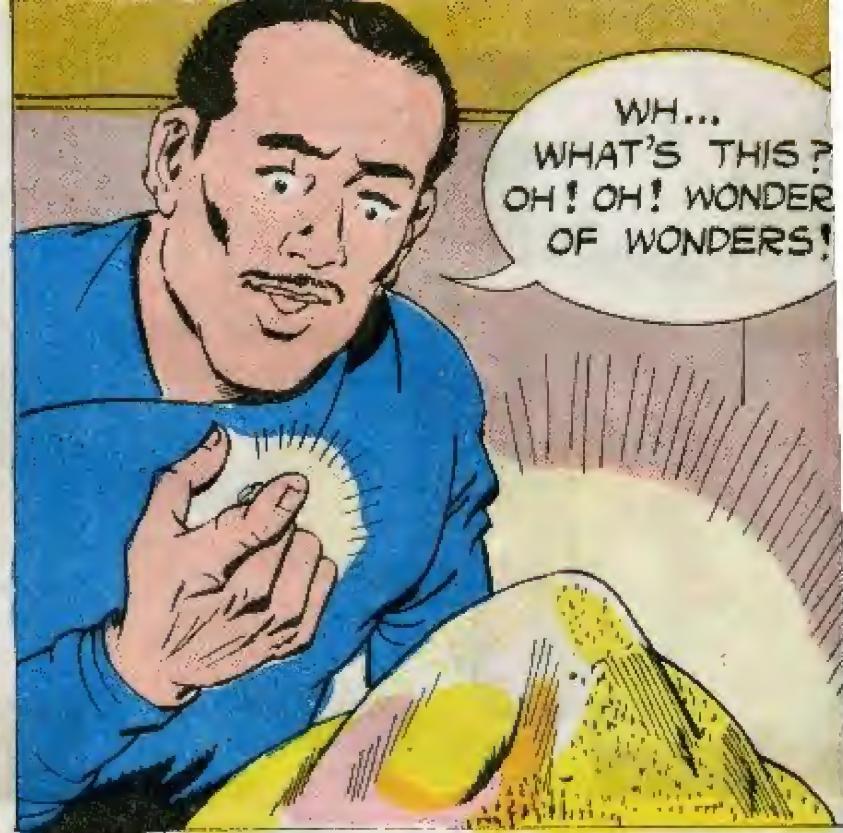


HE SENT FOR THE COURT ASTROLOGER.



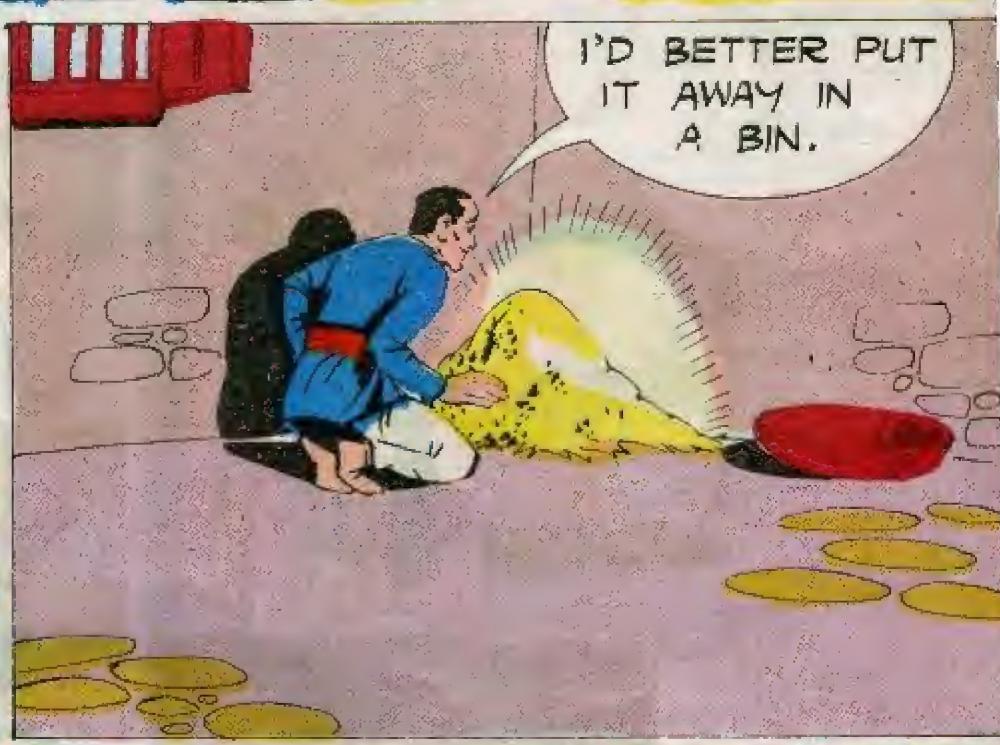
MEANWHILE, AT SAKHWAL'S WAREHOUSE—

WHY IS THE
SAND SHINING
SO?



IT'S GOLD
DUST!

I'D BETTER PUT
IT AWAY IN
A BIN.

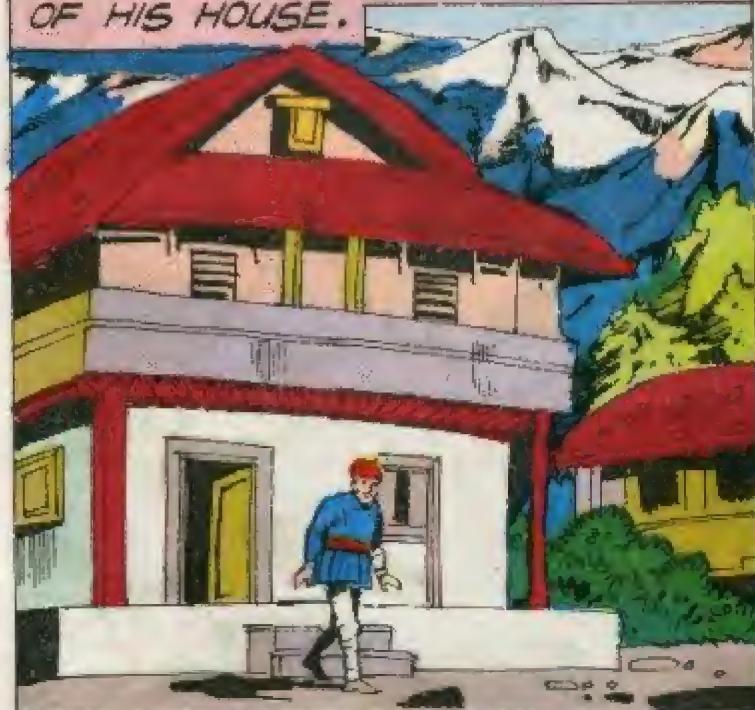


BUT THAT NIGHT SAKHWAL
WAS RACKED BY DOUBTS.

IT'S TRUE I FOUND IT IN MY
WAREHOUSE... BUT DOES THAT MAKE
IT MINE? SHOULD I KEEP IT OR
SHOULD I... OH, WELL, I'LL SLEEP
OVER IT AND THEN DECIDE.



THE NEXT MORNING HE SET OUT OF HIS HOUSE.



HE WAS WALKING THROUGH THE MARKET-PLACE, STILL STRUGGLING WITH HIS PROBLEM...



...WHEN A VOICE BEHIND HIM BROKE INTO HIS THOUGHTS.

MERCY! MERCY,
SAHUJI.



SAKHWAJ SLOWLY TURNED ROUND.

PLEASE DON'T TAKE AWAY MY LAND AND MY CATTLE, SAHUJI. I'LL BE RUINED!



GRANT ME SOME MORE TIME! PLEASE!
I PROMISE I'LL PAY EVERY SINGLE COIN!

SO HAD YOU PROMISED—
LAST MONTH, AND THE MONTH BEFORE!





AND HE KNEW WHAT HE MUST DO.

HERE! TAKE THIS
AND GIVE HIM BACK
HIS BOND.

YOU...!



YOU... LOW-
BORN...

I MAY
BE LOW-BORN,
I MAY BE
IMPURE...

...BUT MY
GOLD IS NEITHER.
SO TAKE
IT!

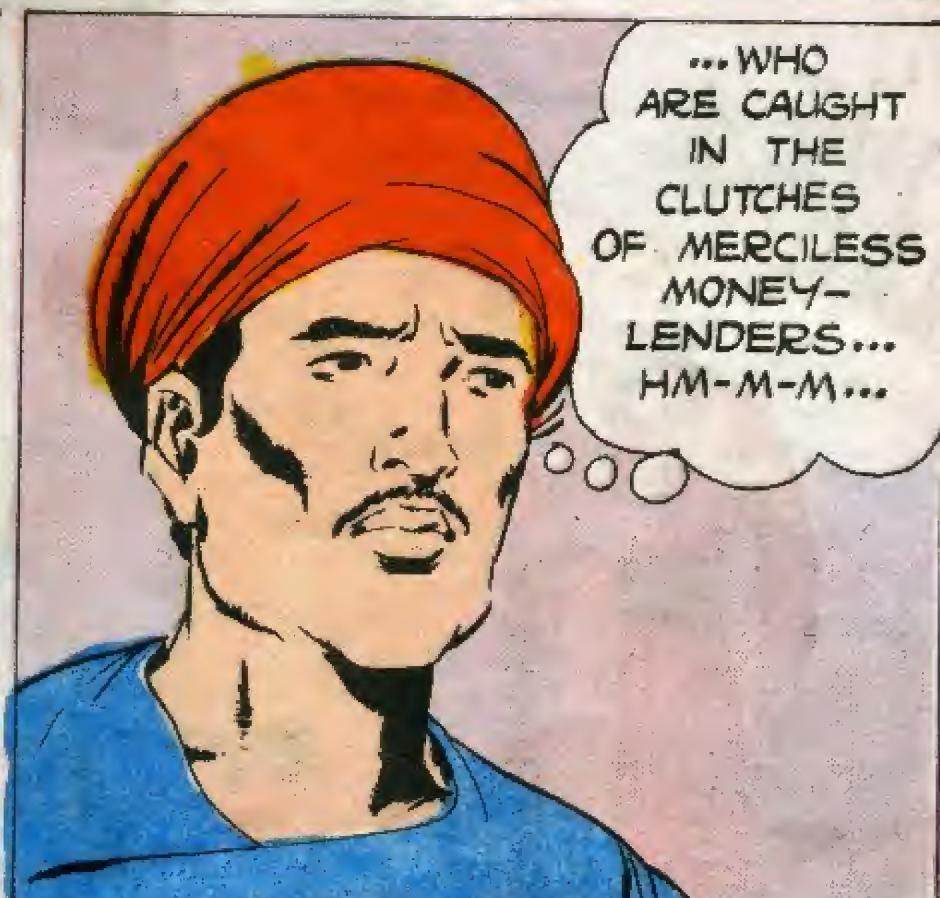


THE MONEY-LENDER ACCEPTED THE GOLD AND RETURNED THE BOND TO THE POOR CREDITOR.



BUT SAKHWAL WAS ALREADY OUT OF EARSHOT.

THE SCENE HE HAD JUST WITNESSED SET HIM THINKING.



HE WENT STRAIGHT TO THE COURT OF KING JAYADEVA MALLA.

SALUTATIONS, MAHARAJ!

I HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL YOU, MAHARAJ.

YES? GO AHEAD.

WELL... ER...
I... I BOUGHT
SOME SAND
YESTERDAY.
AND NEARLY
TWELVE HOURS
LATER...

WHEN HE FINISHED HIS TALE—

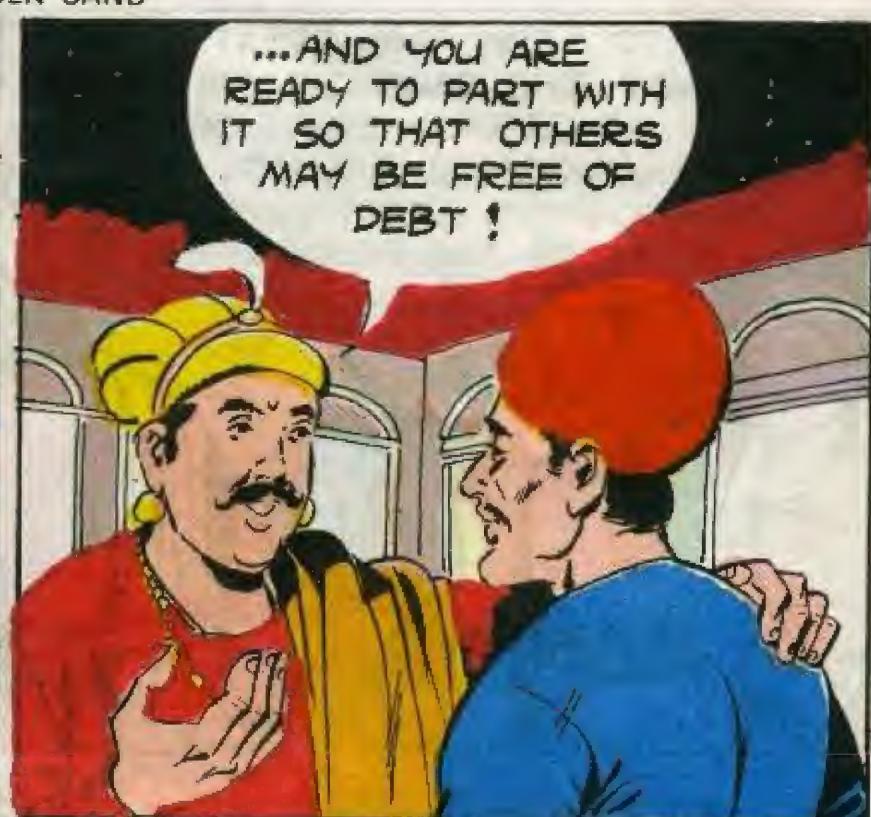
MAHARAJ,
I WANT TO USE
THE GOLD TO
FREE ALL THOSE
WHO ARE
UNFORTUNATE
ENOUGH TO
BE IN THE
CLUTCHES
OF MONEY-
LENDERS.

DO I HAVE
YOUR PERMISSION,
MAHARAJ? AND YOUR
BLESSINGS?

BLESSINGS?
PERMISSION?

MY GOOD MAN, MEN RICHER AND MIGHTIER THAN YOU WOULD HAVE KEPT THE GOLD FOR THEMSELVES...

...AND YOU ARE READY TO PART WITH IT SO THAT OTHERS MAY BE FREE OF DEBT !



AND TO MARK THIS GREAT OCCASION, THE CALENDAR WE FOLLOW HENCEFORTH SHALL BE THE SHANKHDHAR SAMVAT, OF WHICH THIS GREAT DAY SHALL BE THE FIRST.

MAHARAJ JAYADEVA KOJAI!

LONG LIVE SHANKHDHAR!



WHEN SHANKHDHAR'S OFFER WAS PROCLAIMED, PEOPLE FROM FAR AND NEAR APPROACHED HIM. AND HE HELPED ONE AND ALL.



SOON—

NOBODY
CAME TODAY! THERE
IS NOT A SINGLE
DEBT-RIDDEN SOUL
IN THE LAND!
AHA!



ONE DAY THE KING SENT FOR SAKHWAL.

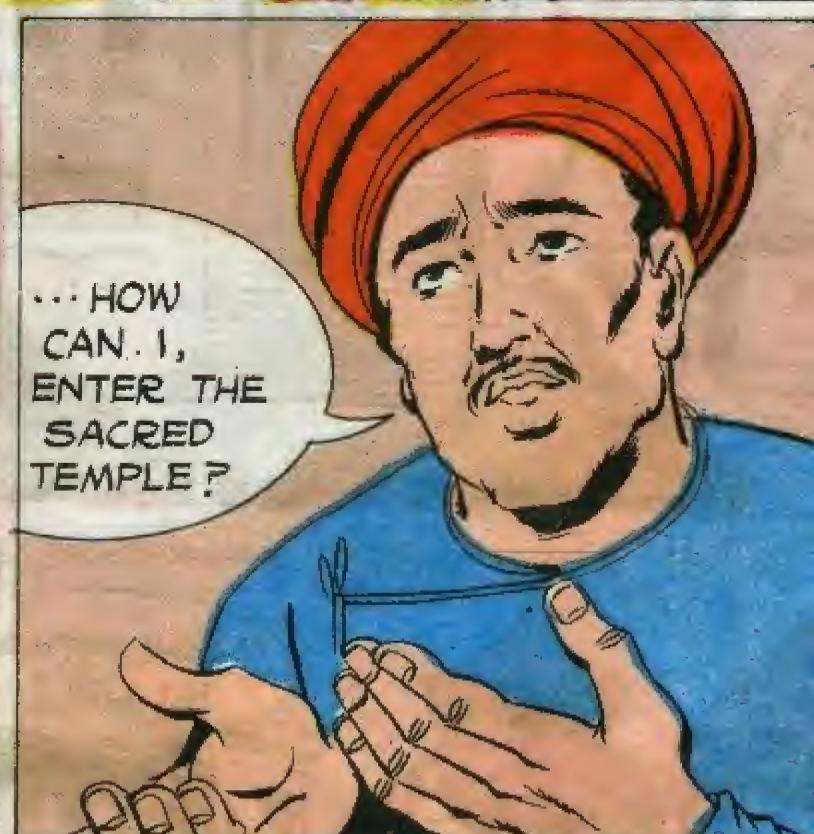
WILL YOU COME WITH
ME TO THE TEMPLE OF
PASHUPATINATH*?

GLADLY,
MAHARAJA





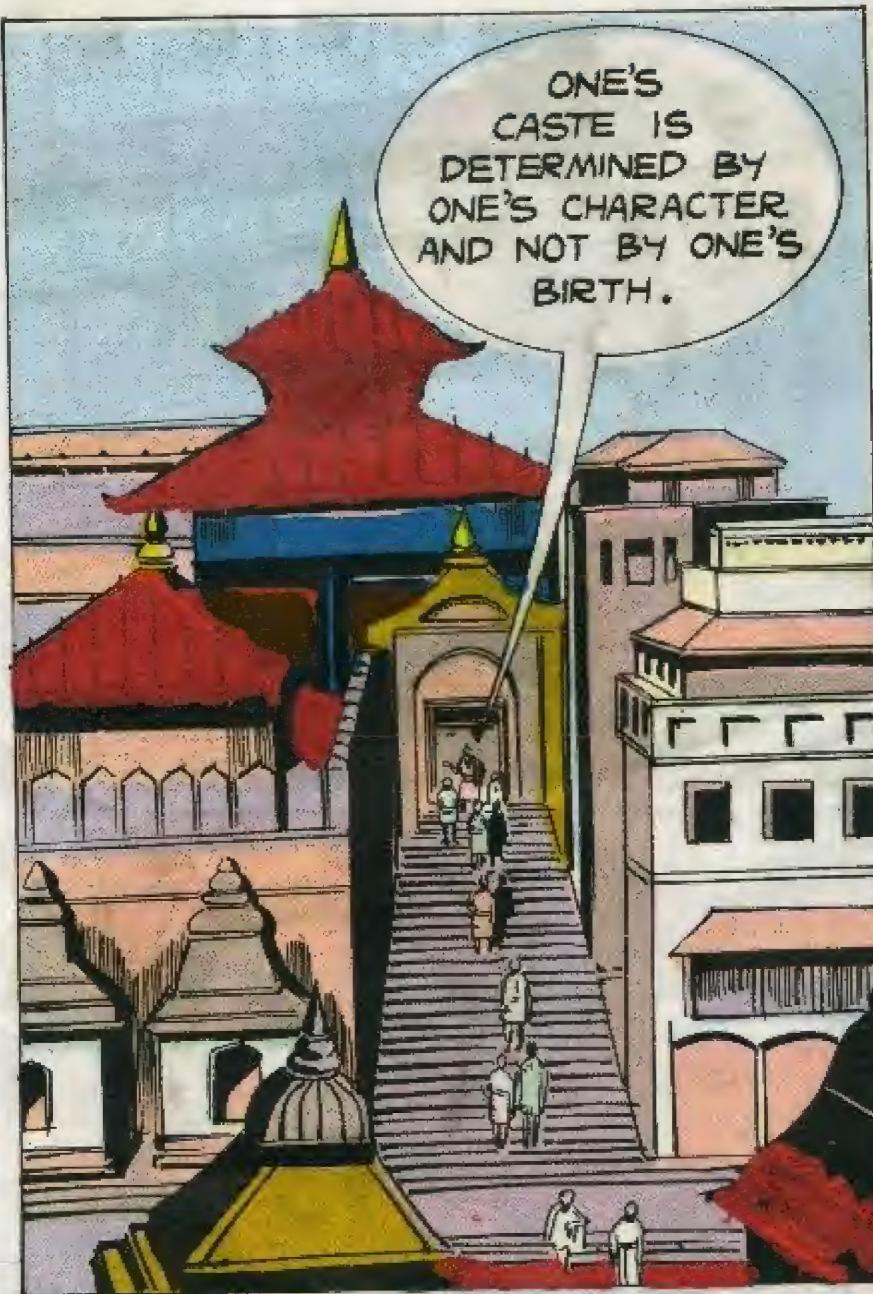
WHEN THEY ARRIVED AT THE ENTRANCE—



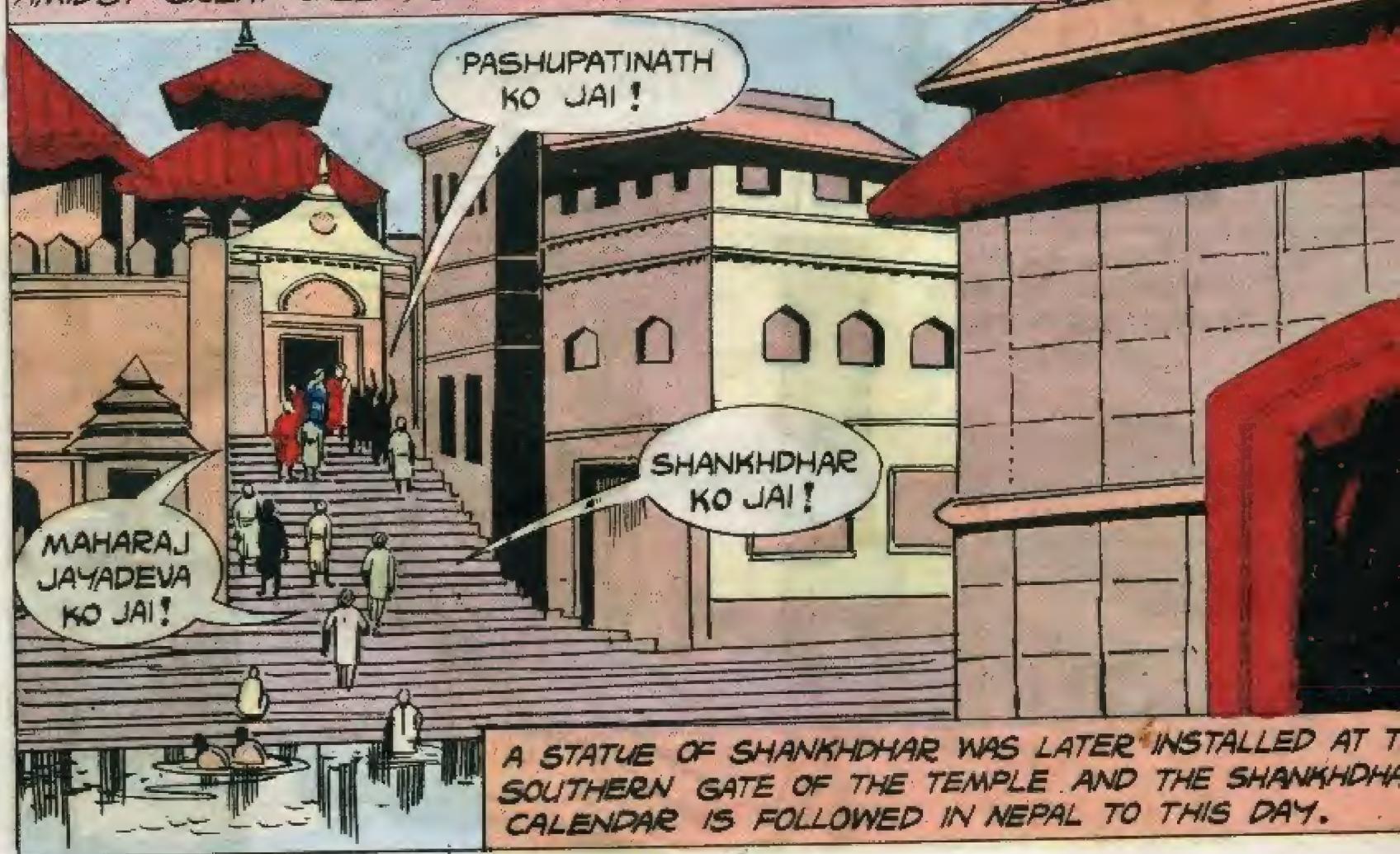
PLEASE GO IN,
MAHARAJ. I'LL BOW
TO THE LORD FROM
OUT HERE.

SHANKHDHAR!





AMIDST GREAT CHEER, SHANKHDHAR ENTERED THE TEMPLE.



THE MOTHER

THE PEOPLE OF LIGLIG* WILL SOON BE HOLDING THEIR ANNUAL RACE TO CHOOSE THEIR NEW KING FOR THE YEAR.

AND WHAT A RACE ! RUNNING UPHILL AND DOWNHILL !

DRAVYASHAH, THE YOUNGER BROTHER OF NARHARISHAH, KING OF LAMJUNG® WAS AN ADVENTUROUS, FEARLESS AND AMBITIOUS YOUNG MAN.

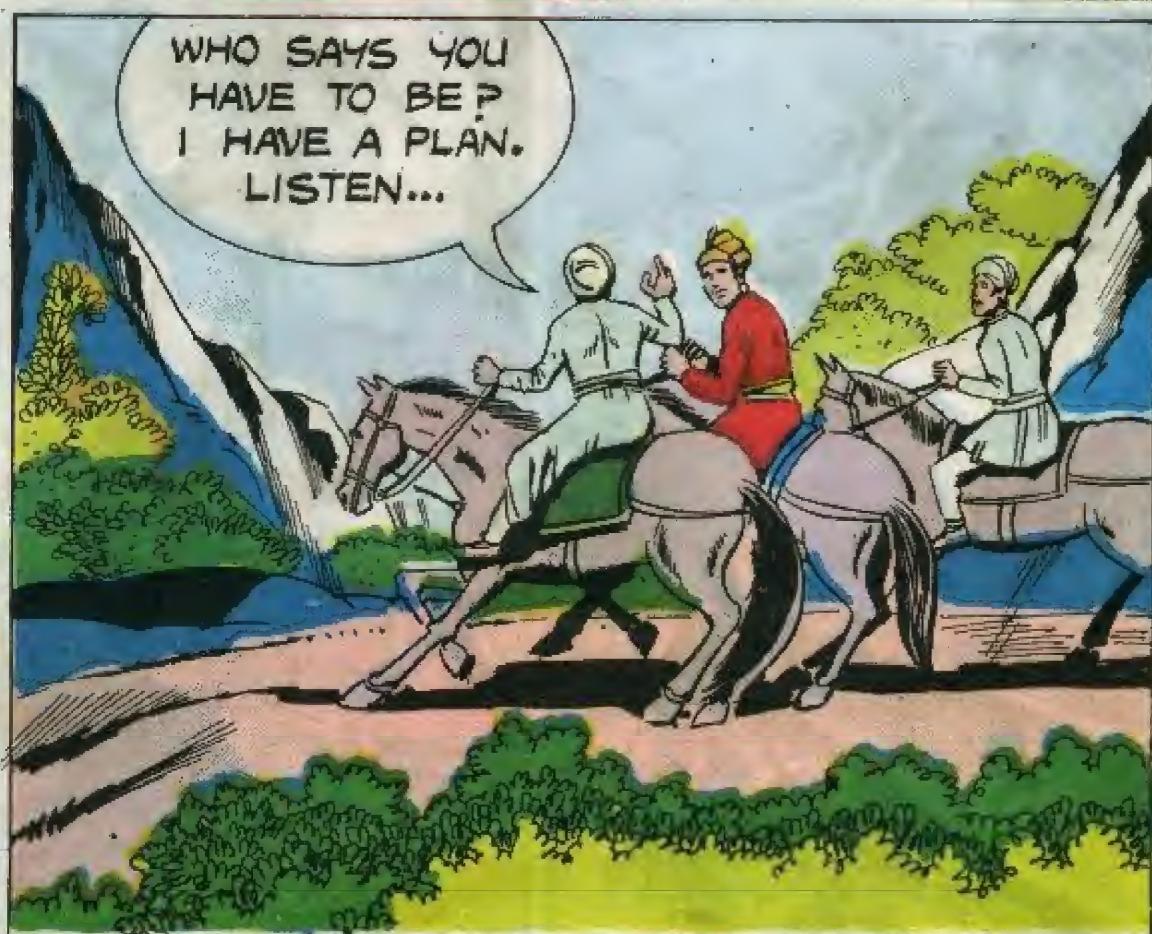
WHAT MAKES THEM THINK THAT A PERSON WHO CAN RUN FAST WILL MAKE A GOOD KING ?

WHAT LIGLIG NEEDS IS A KING WHO IS WISE AND VALIANT.

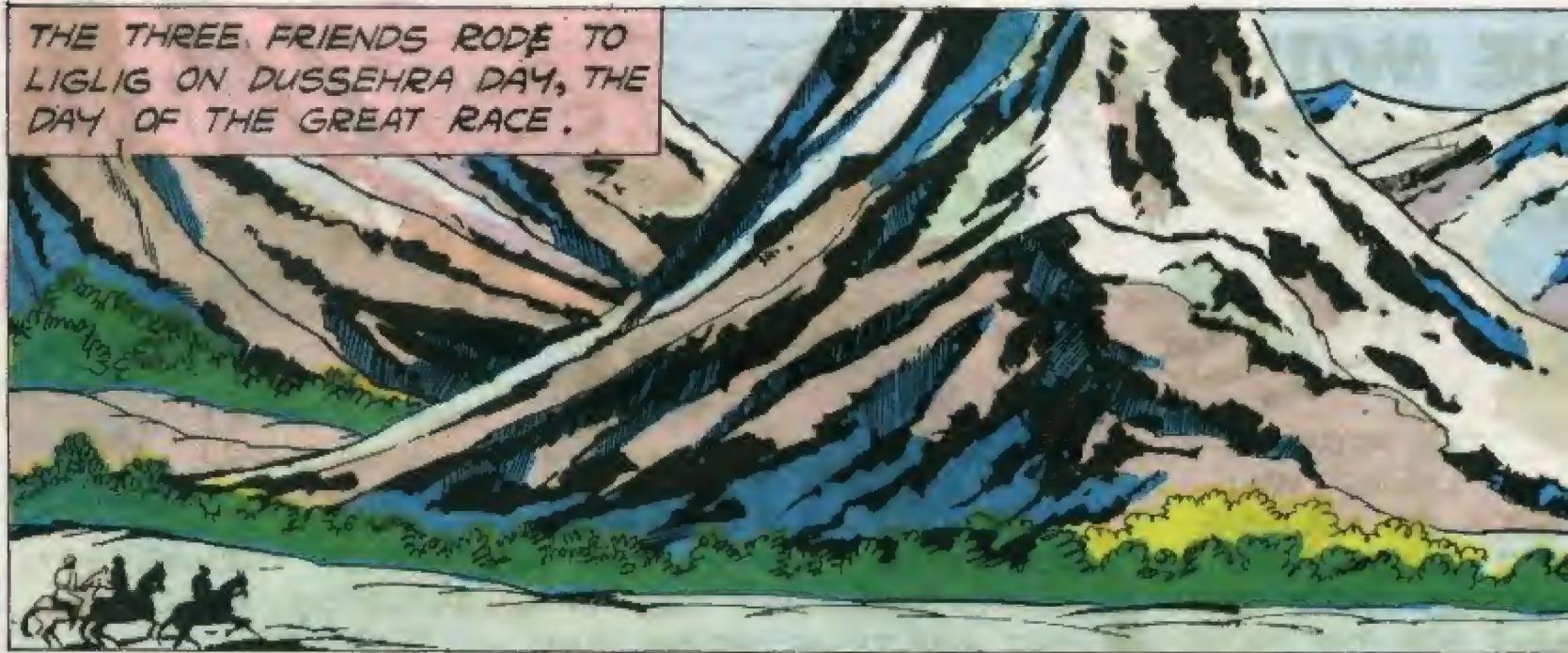
IN THAT CASE YOU WOULD BE THE IDEAL RULER.

BUT I AM NO GOOD AT RUNNING.

WHO SAYS YOU HAVE TO BE ? I HAVE A PLAN. LISTEN...



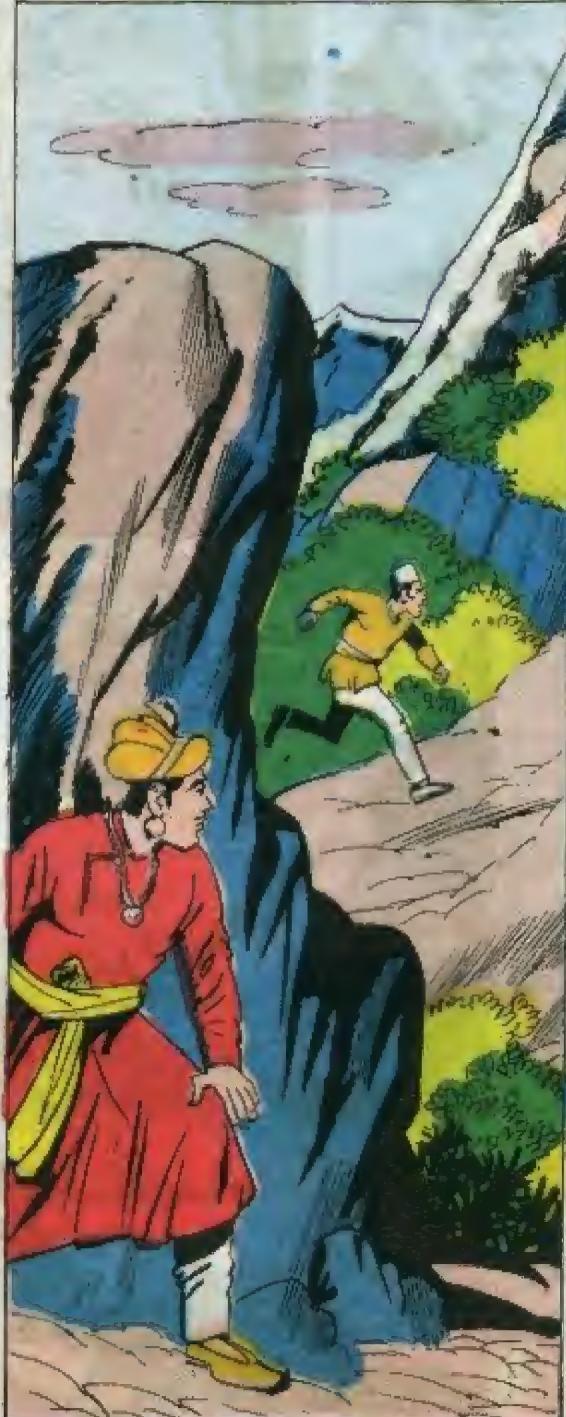
THE THREE FRIENDS RODE TO LIGLIG ON DUSSEHRA DAY, THE DAY OF THE GREAT RACE.



THE RACE BEGAN AT THE FOOT OF THE HILL.



DRAVYASHAH, AS PREVIOUSLY ARRANGED, HID HIMSELF NEAR THE TOP OF THE HILL. WHEN THE LEAD RUNNER FLASHED PAST...



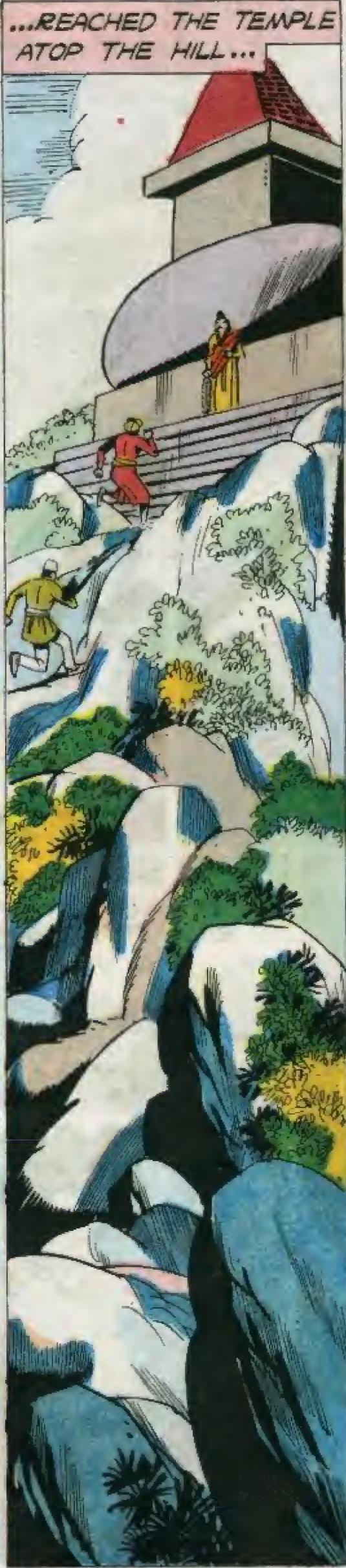
...HE JOINED IN...



...OVERTOOK THE
RUNNER...

...REACHED THE TEMPLE
ATOP THE HILL...

...RECEIVED THE GARLAND FROM
THE UNSUSPECTING PRIEST...



...AND RAN DOWNHILL...



...TO THE WAITING CROWD.



CONGRATULATIONS,
YOUNG MAN! WHAT'S
YOUR NAME?



YOU SHALL BE OUR
KING FOR THIS YEAR.
RAJA DRAVYASHAH
KO JAI!



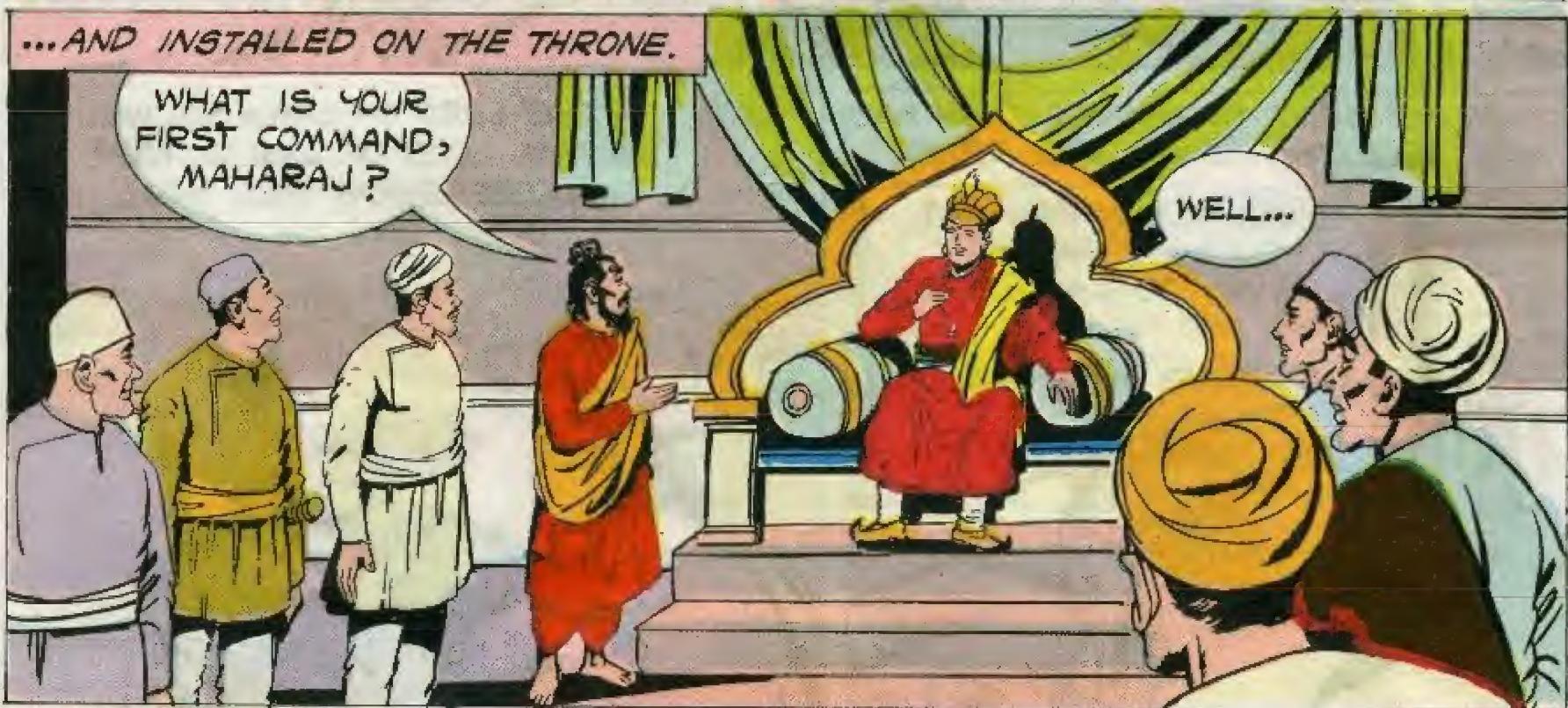
DRAVYASHAH WAS TAKEN IN PROCESSION...



...AND INSTALLED ON THE THRONE.

WHAT IS YOUR
FIRST COMMAND,
MAHARAJ?

WELL...



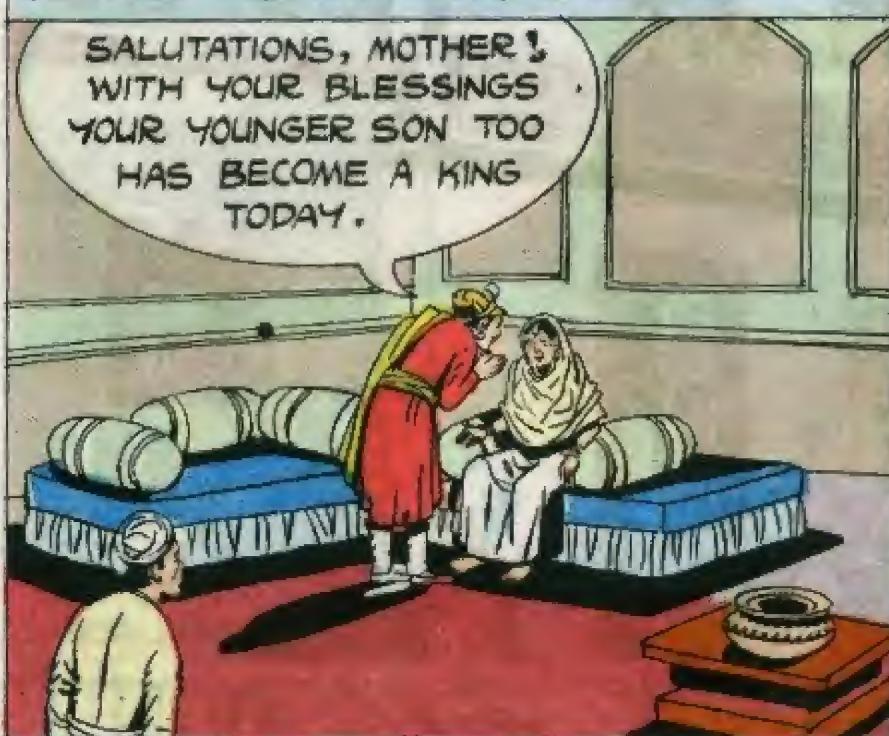
...FROM NOW ON, THE
CUSTOM OF SELECTING
A KING EVERY YEAR
SHALL BE STOPPED
FORTHWITH.

UNDER ONE
PERMANENT KING,
LIGLIG WILL
PROSPER AND
FLOURISH.



DRAVYASHAH THEN MADE A VISIT TO LAMJUNG
TO MEET HIS MOTHER, BASANTVATI.

SALUTATIONS, MOTHER! WITH YOUR BLESSINGS YOUR YOUNGER SON TOO HAS BECOME A KING TODAY.



THEN HE WENT TO NARHARISHAH WHO HAD ALREADY HEARD THE NEWS.

WELL DONE, DRAVYA! YOU HAVE BROUGHT GLORY TO LAMJUNG— AND TO ME!



PARDON ME FOR INTERRUPTING YOU, BROTHER.



AS MY ELDER BROTHER, YOU ARE NO DOUBT THE MASTER OF THE KINGDOM WE INHERITED FROM OUR FATHER.



BUT THE KINGDOM
I HAVE WON SHALL
BE MINE AND MINE
ALONE.

AND DRAVYASHAH WALKED
OUT.

GO HOME
AND THINK IT
OVER!

YOU ARE
DRUNK WITH
SUCCESS!

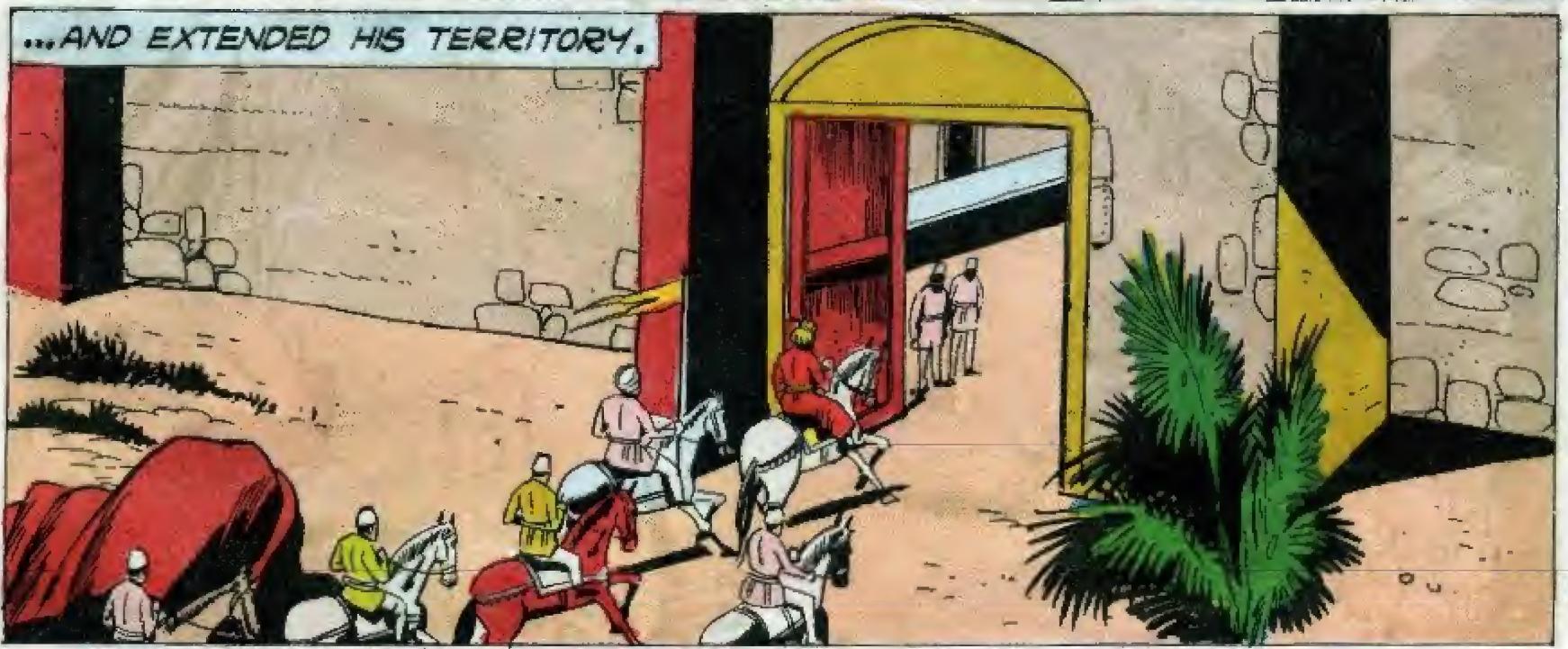


DRAVYASHAH RETURNED TO HIS CAPITAL...



...RAISED AN ARMY...

...AND EXTENDED HIS TERRITORY.



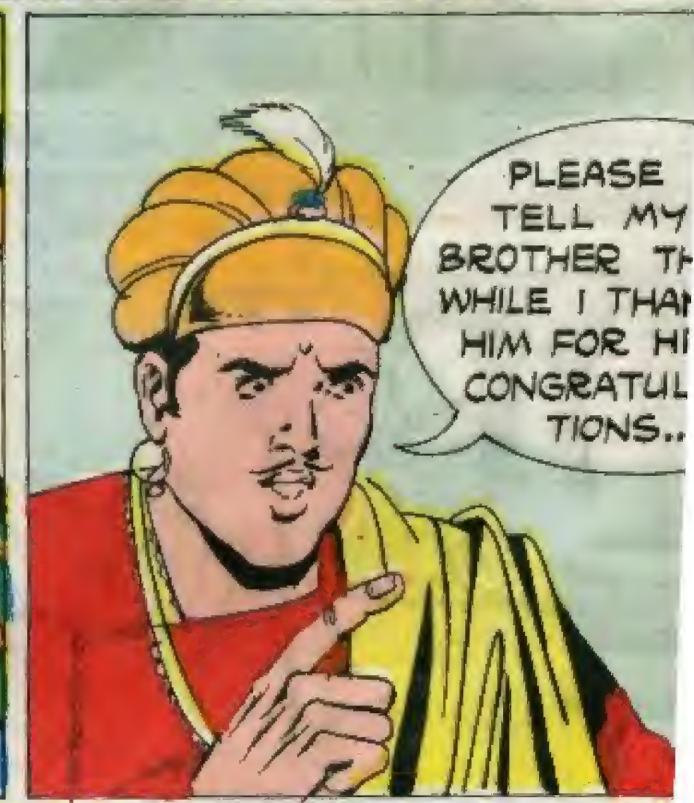
THEN ONE DAY HE RECEIVED A MESSAGE FROM HIS ELDER BROTHER.

KING NARHARISHAH SENDS HIS CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR VICTORY, SIR.



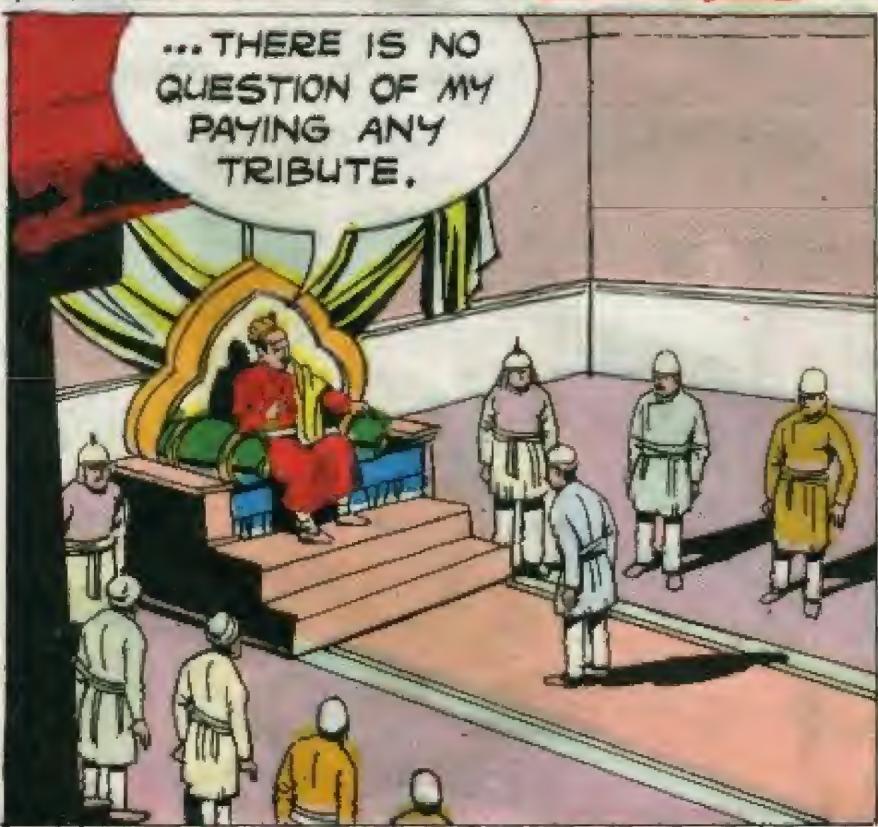
AND HE WANTS TO REMIND YOU ABOUT THE TRIBUTE DUE TO HIM.

WHAT TRIBUTE?



... THERE IS NO QUESTION OF MY PAYING ANY TRIBUTE.

I HAD MADE IT CLEAR TO HIM LONG AGO.



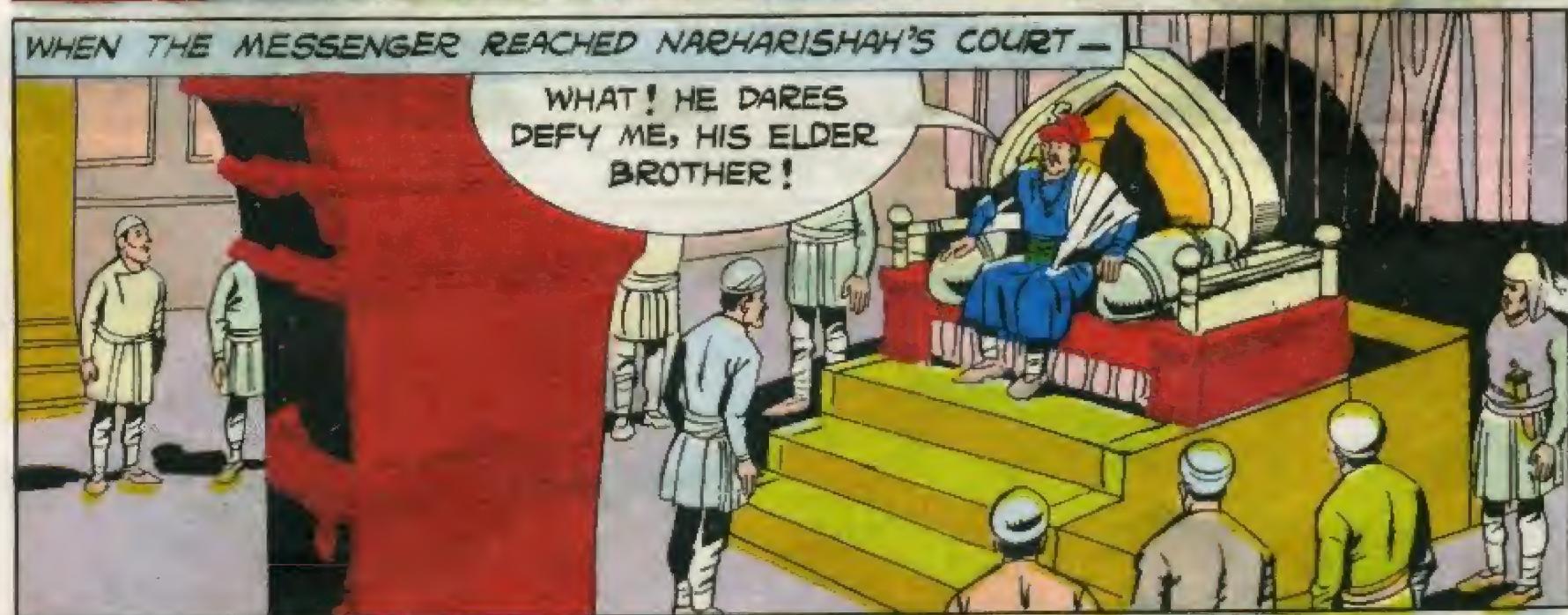
AFTER THE MESSENGER LEFT —

IF HE THINKS HE
CAN BULLY ME INTO
SURRENDERING, HE'D
BETTER THINK
AFRESH.



WHEN THE MESSENGER REACHED NARHARISHAH'S COURT —

WHAT! HE DARES
DEFY ME, HIS ELDER
BROTHER!



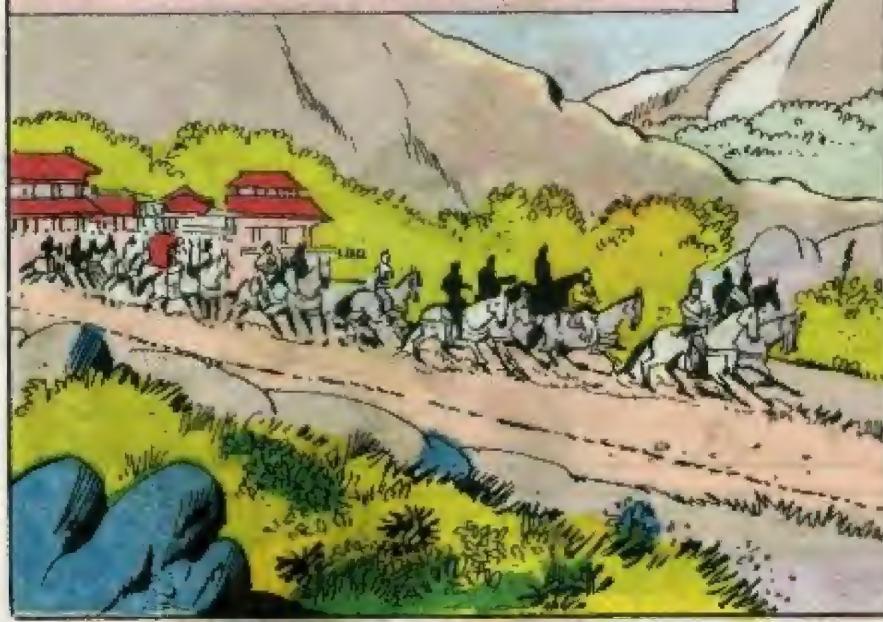
WE'LL ATTACK HIM
IN THE MONTH OF
MAGHA* AFTER THE
DIP IN THE HOLY
CHEPE.

WHEN THE QUEEN MOTHER
HEARD THIS —

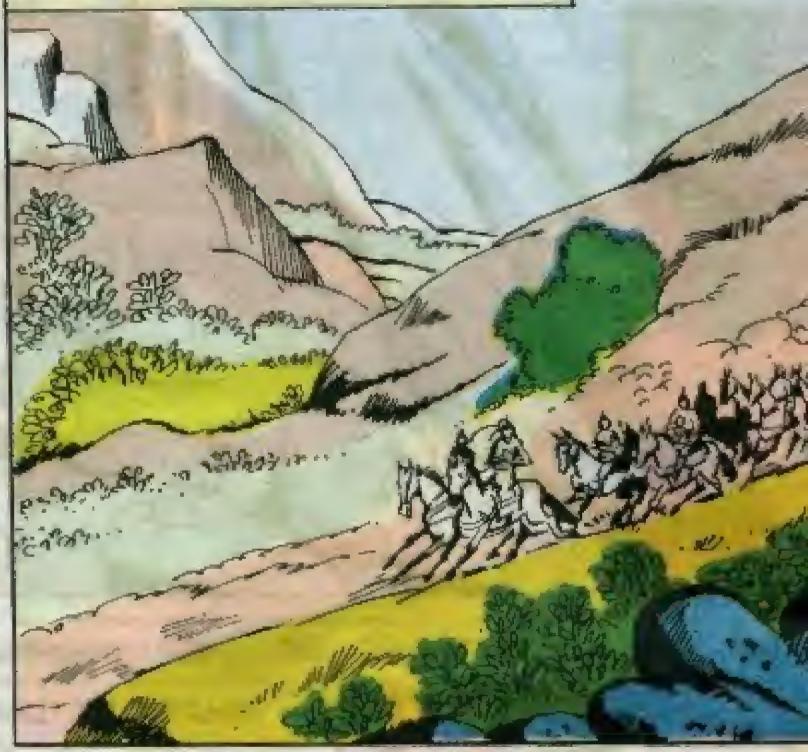
WAR
BETWEEN SONS OF
THE SAME MOTHER!
NO! NEVER!



WHEN THE MONTH OF MAGHA CAME ROUND,
KING NARHARISHAH SET OUT WITH THE
QUEEN MOTHER AND HIS FAMILY FOR THE
ANNUAL DIP IN THE RIVER CHEPE.



SO DID KING DRAVYASHAH.



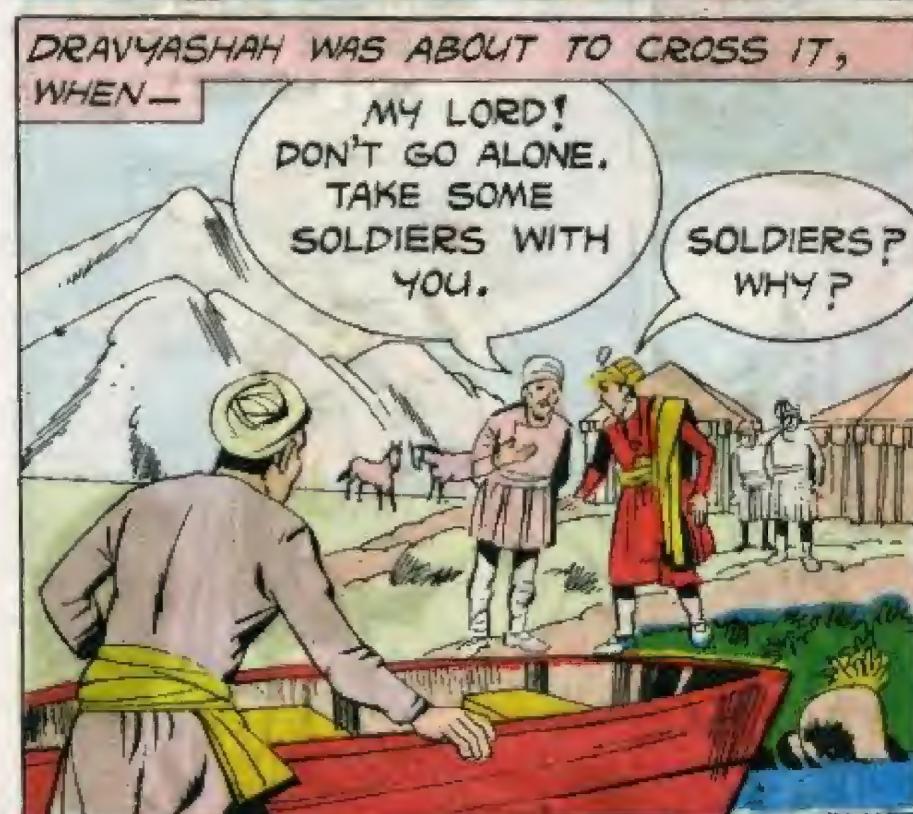
THEY SOON ARRIVED AT THE BANKS OF THE RIVER.



DRAVYASHAH WAS ABOUT TO CROSS IT,
WHEN—

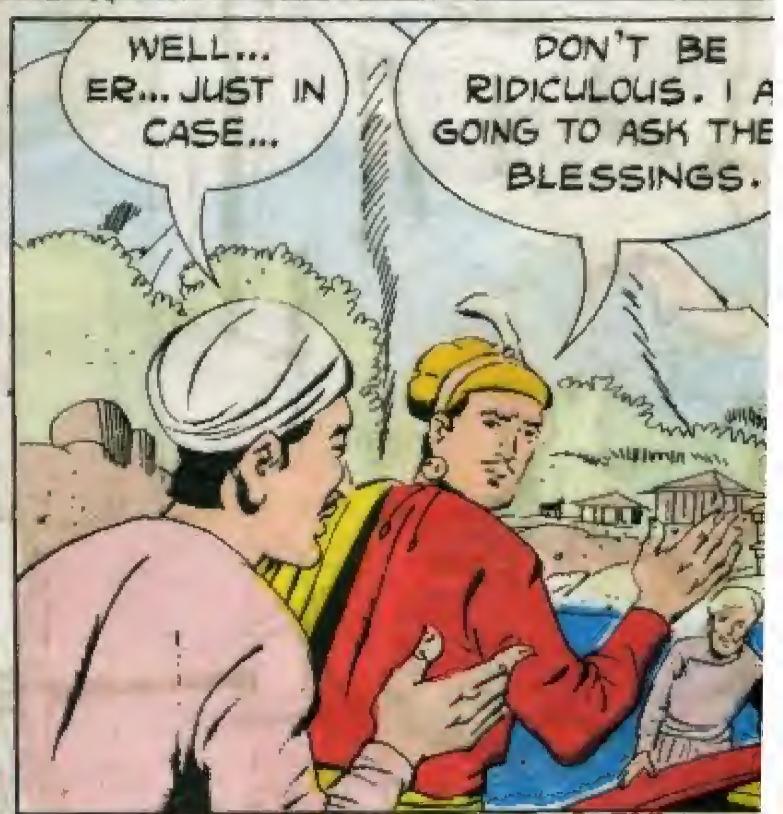
MY LORD!
DON'T GO ALONE.
TAKE SOME
SOLDIERS WITH
YOU.

SOLDIERS?
WHY?



WELL...
ER... JUST IN
CASE...

DON'T BE
RIDICULOUS. I AM
GOING TO ASK THE
BLESSINGS.



DRAVYASHAH CROSSED THE RIVER...



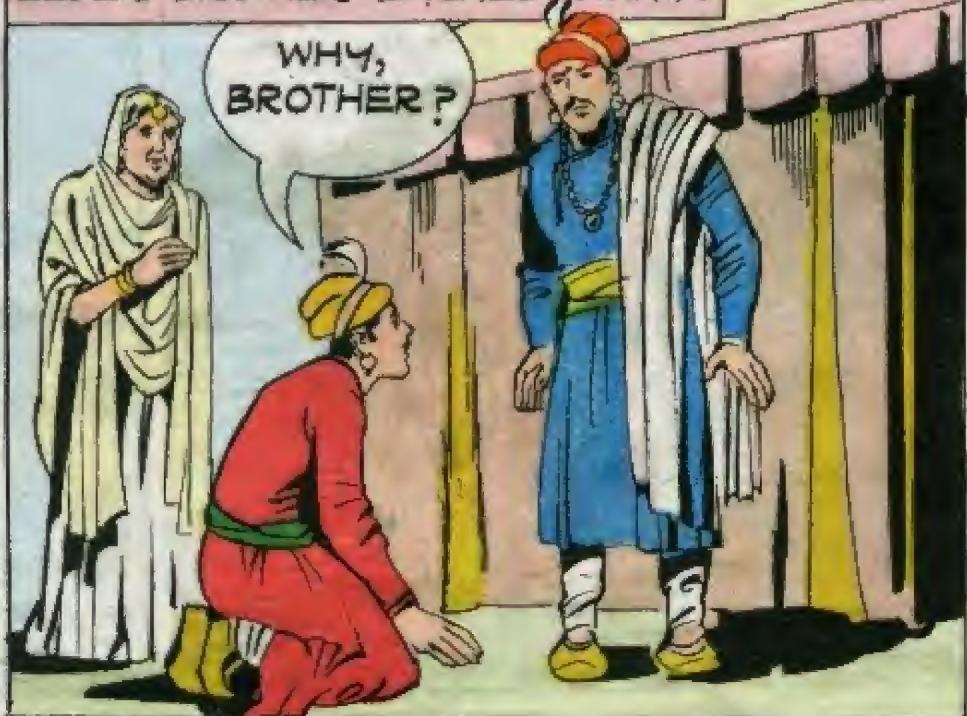
...AND WALKED TOWARDS BASANTVATI.



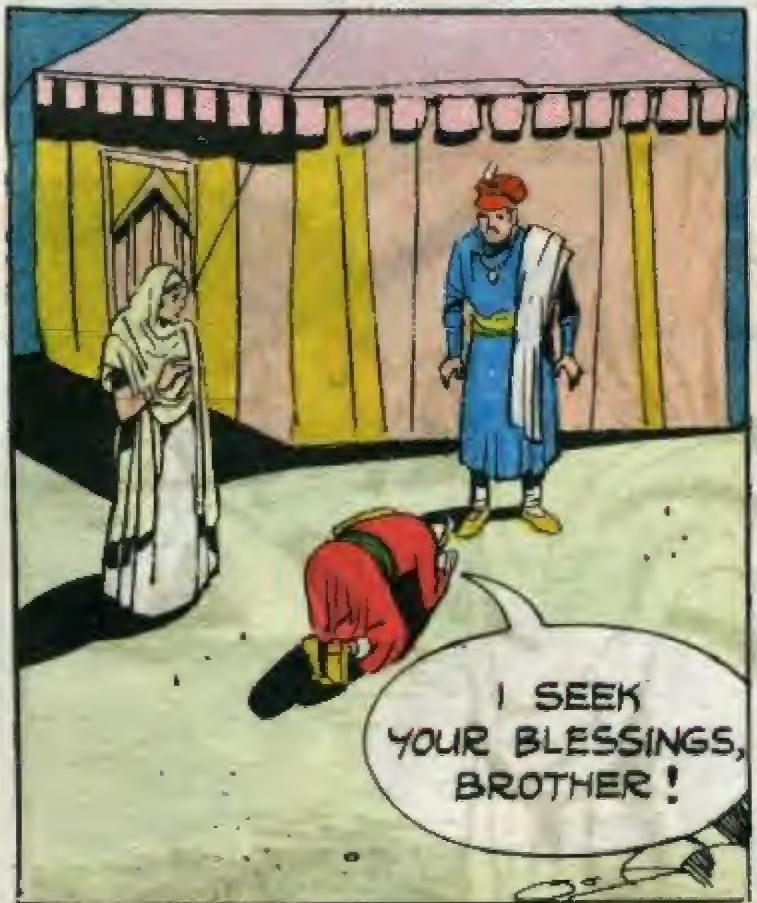
MAY YOU LIVE
LONG, SON. MAY YOU
ACHIEVE GREATER
GLORIES!



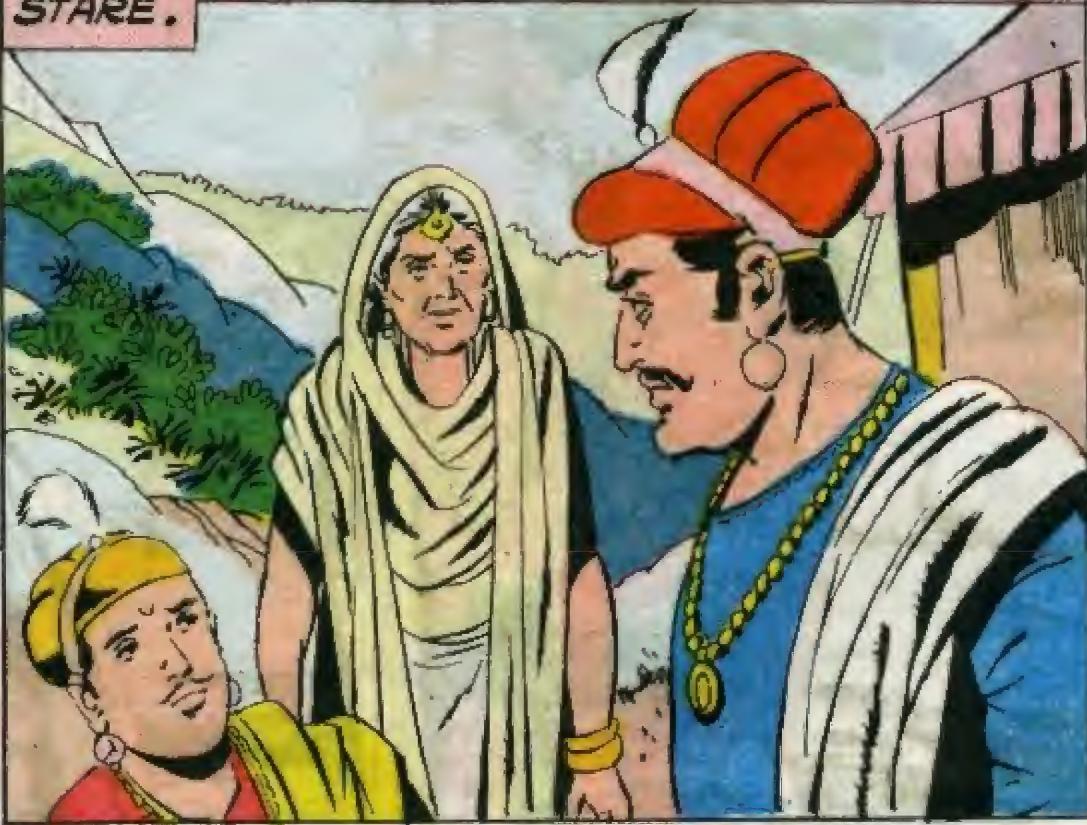
THEN AS HE TURNED TO NARHARISHAH, THE
ELDER BROTHER BACKED AWAY.



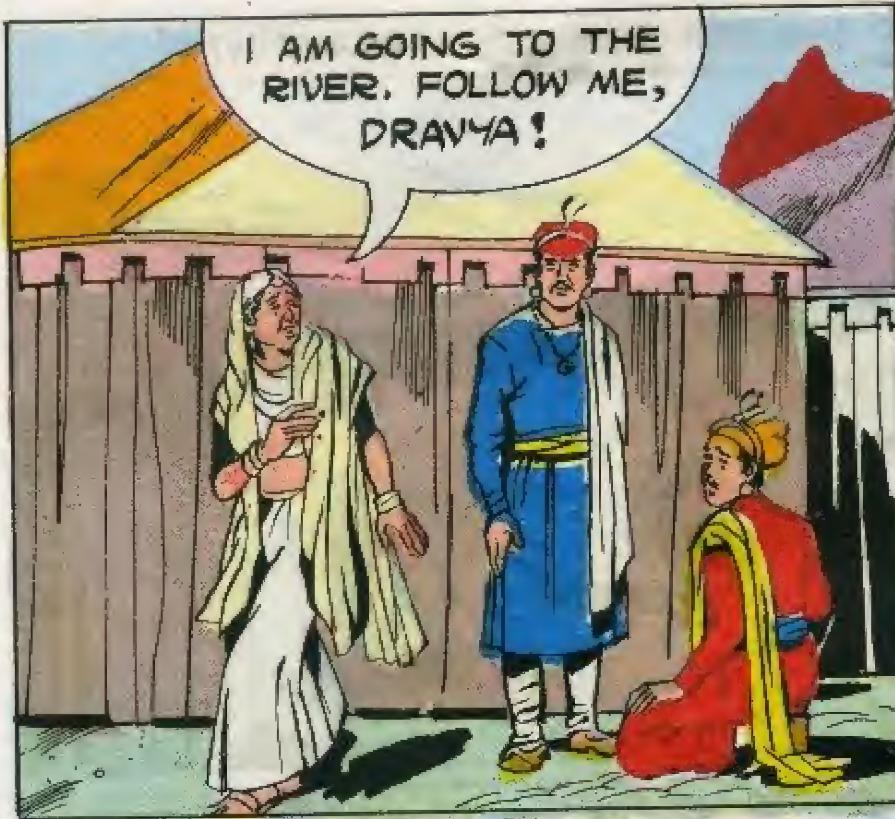
I SEEK
YOUR BLESSINGS,
BROTHER!



NARHARISHAH ANSWERED HIM WITH A HOSTILE
STARE.



I AM GOING TO THE RIVER. FOLLOW ME, DRAVYA!



DRAVYA, I COMMAND YOU TO CROSS THE RIVER ON MY LEFT.



PLEASE DO AS I ASK YOU TO !

AS YOU WISH, MOTHER.

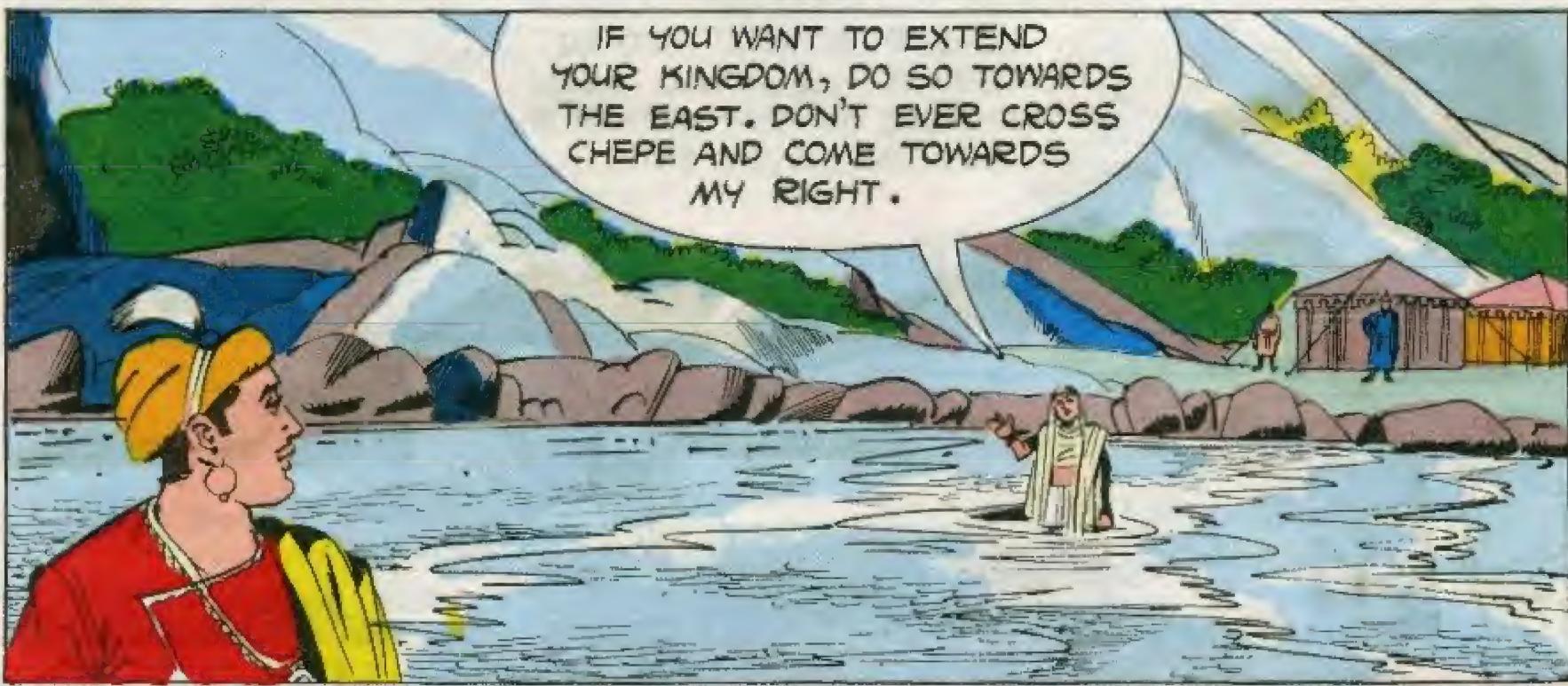


DRAVYASHAH FELL AT HIS MOTHER'S FEET...

...AND WALKED TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RIVER.



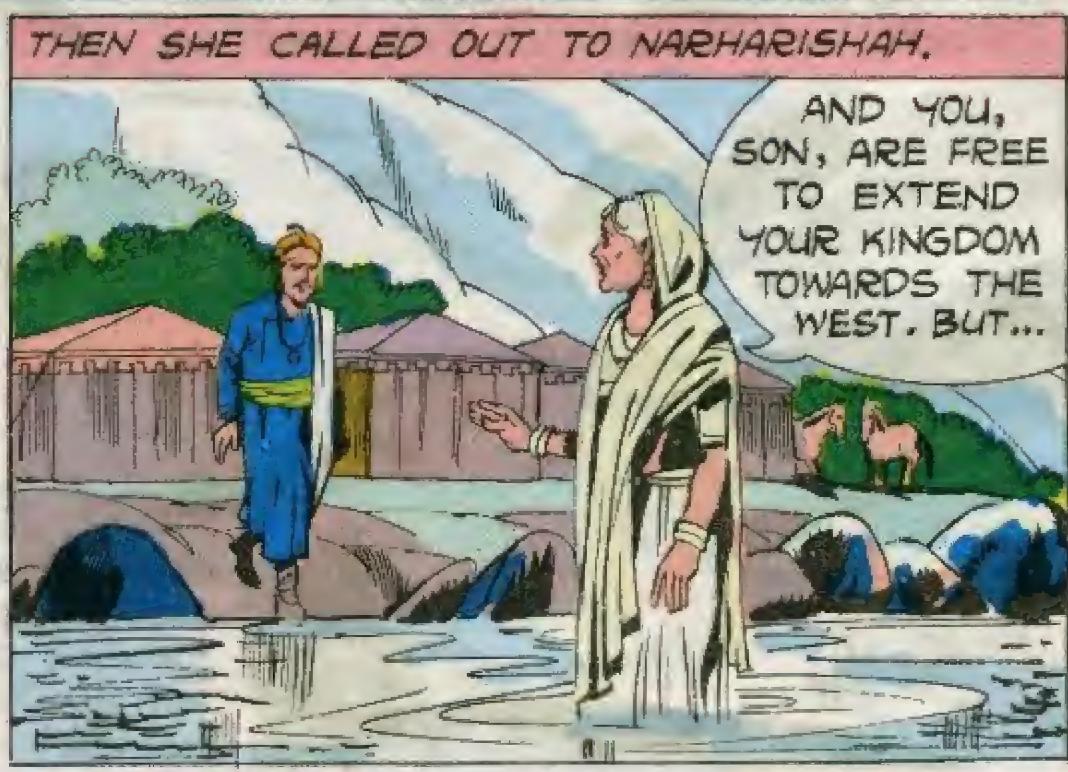
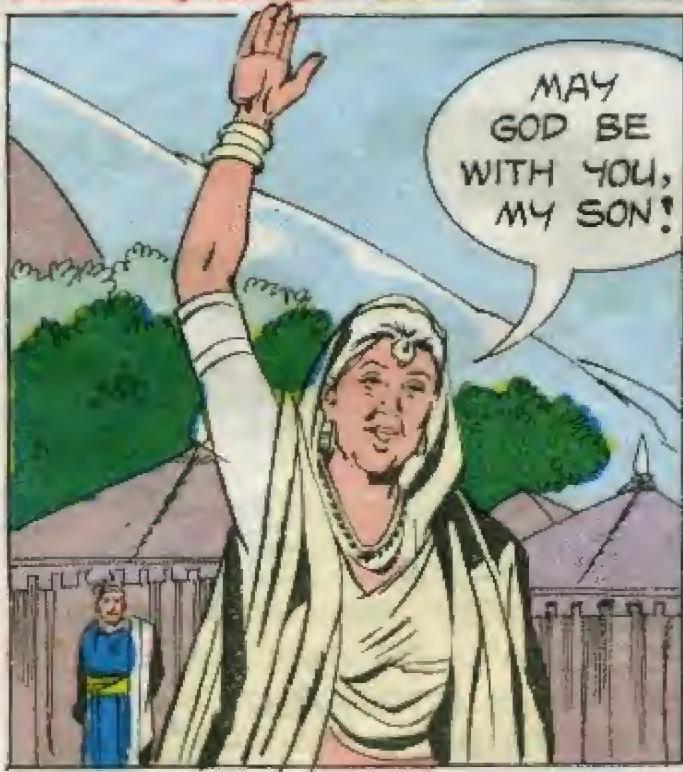
IF YOU WANT TO EXTEND YOUR KINGDOM, DO SO TOWARDS THE EAST. DON'T EVER CROSS CHEPE AND COME TOWARDS MY RIGHT.

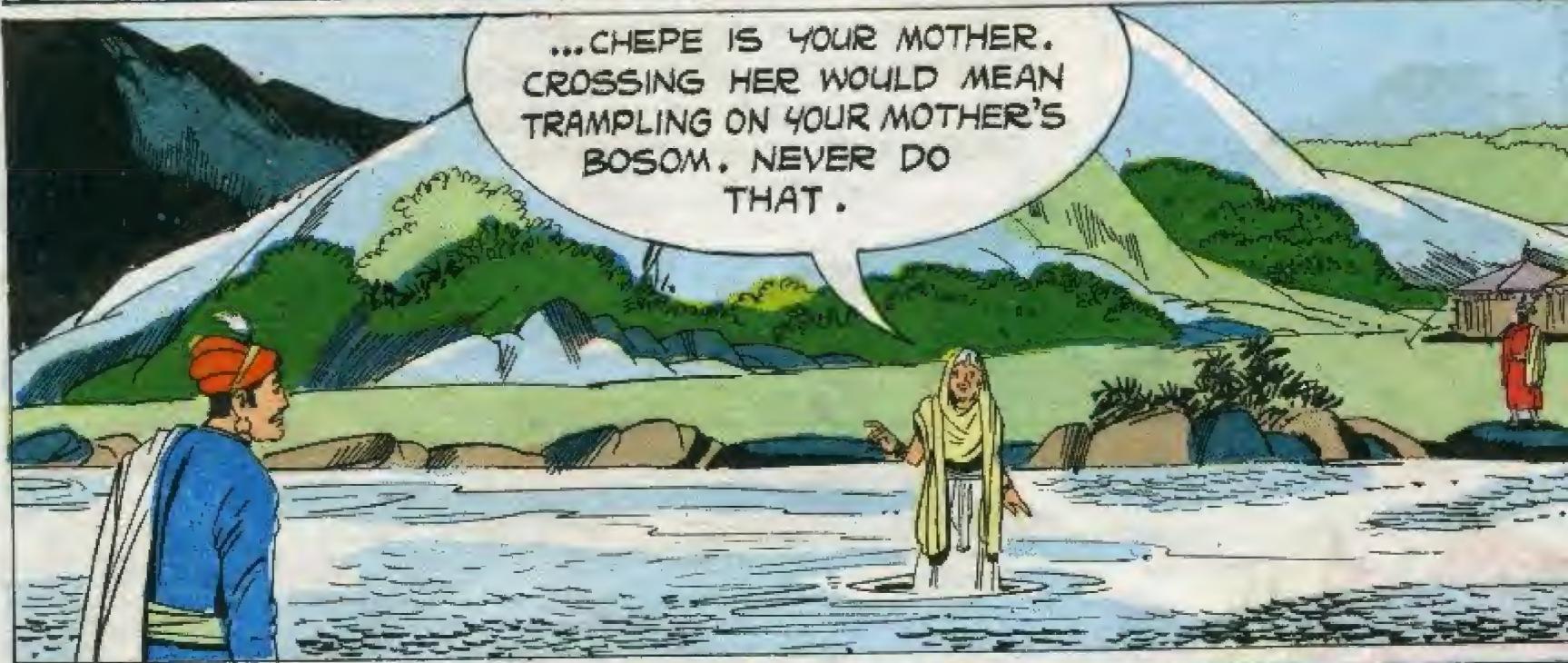
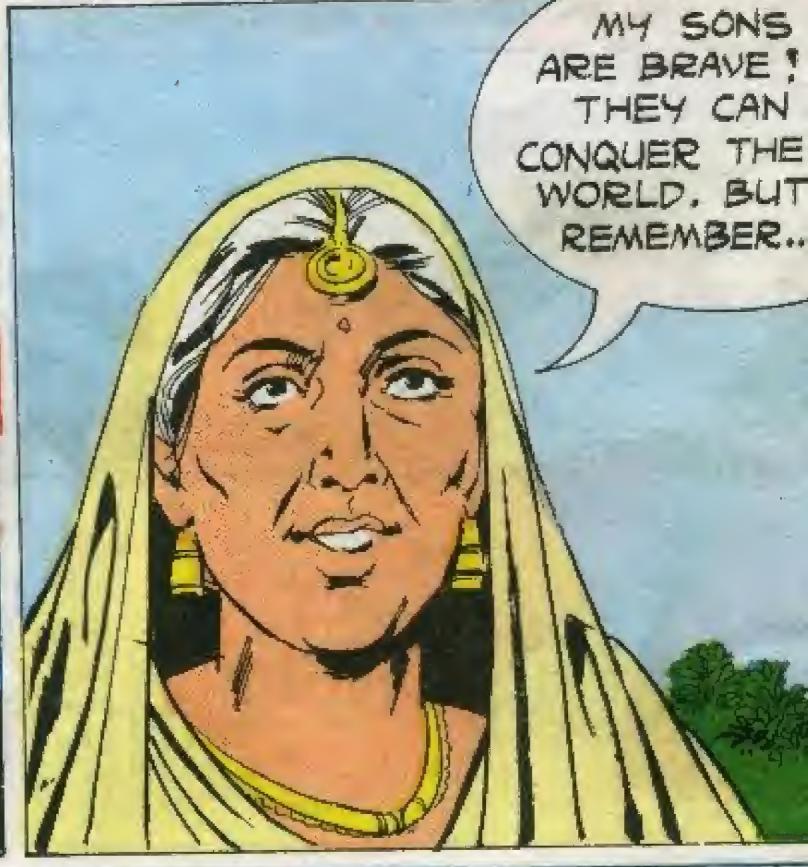


MAY GOD BE WITH YOU, MY SON!

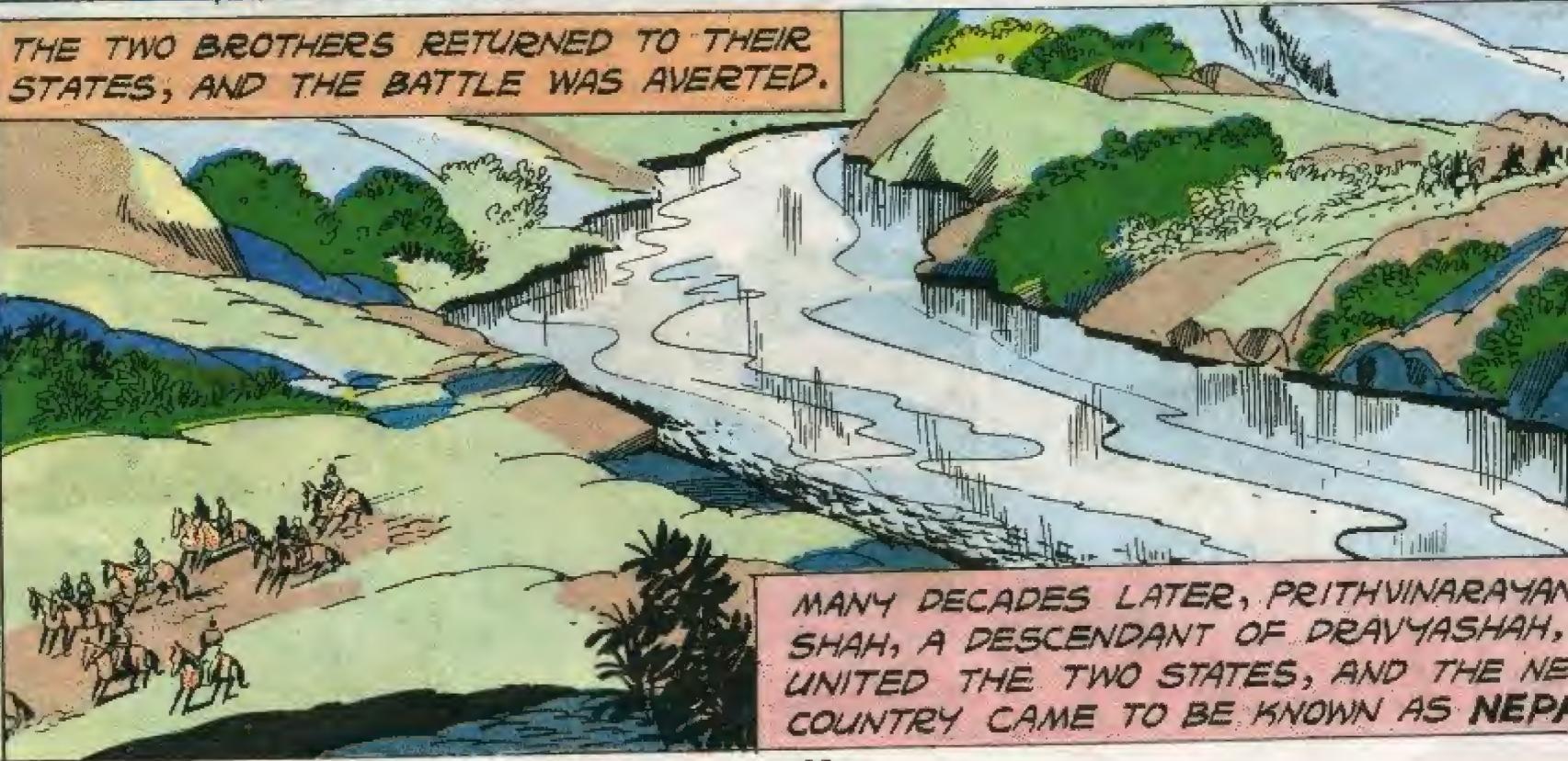
THEN SHE CALLED OUT TO NARHARISHAH.

AND YOU, SON, ARE FREE TO EXTEND YOUR KINGDOM TOWARDS THE WEST. BUT...



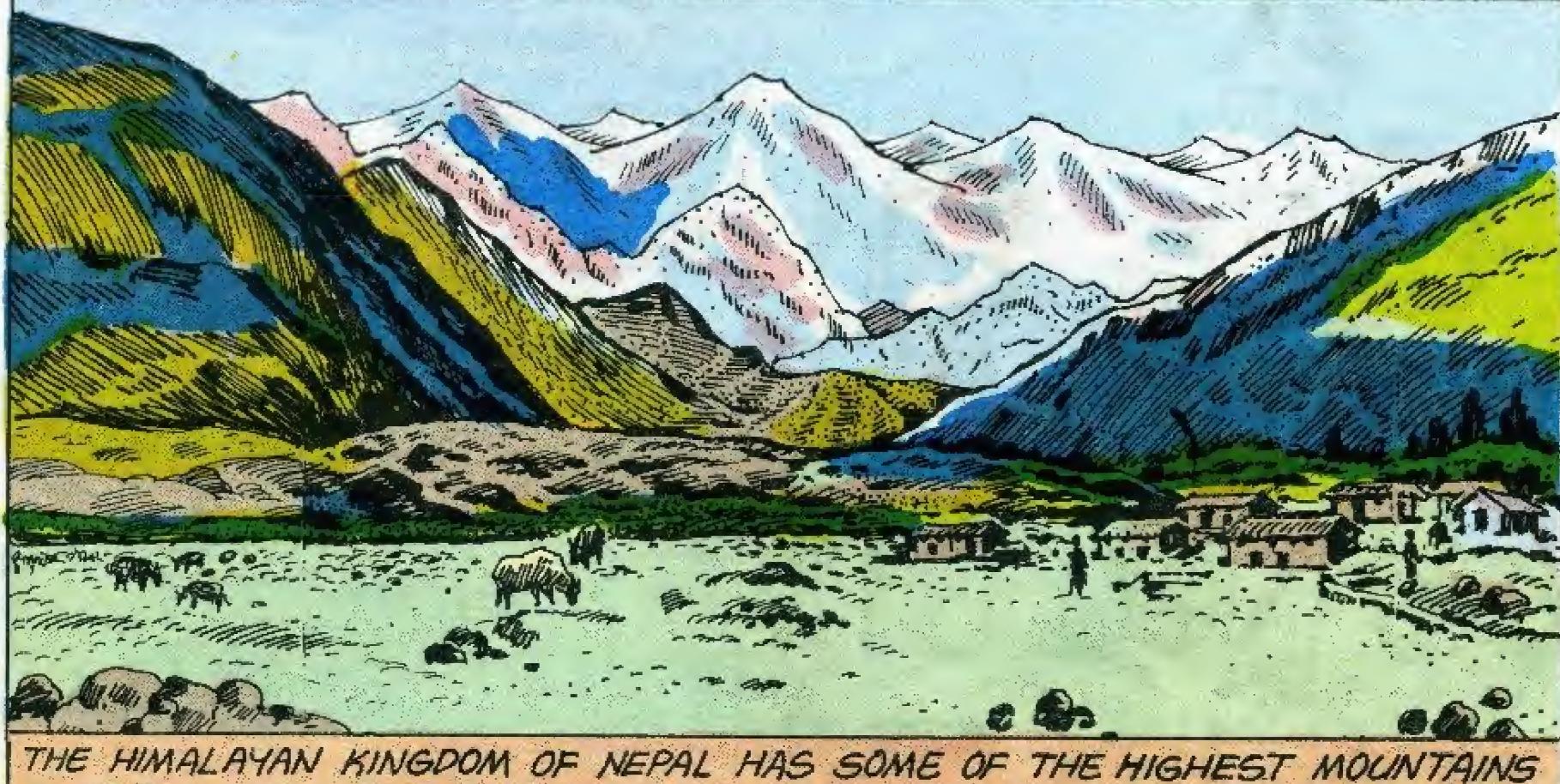


THE TWO BROTHERS RETURNED TO THEIR STATES, AND THE BATTLE WAS AVERTED.

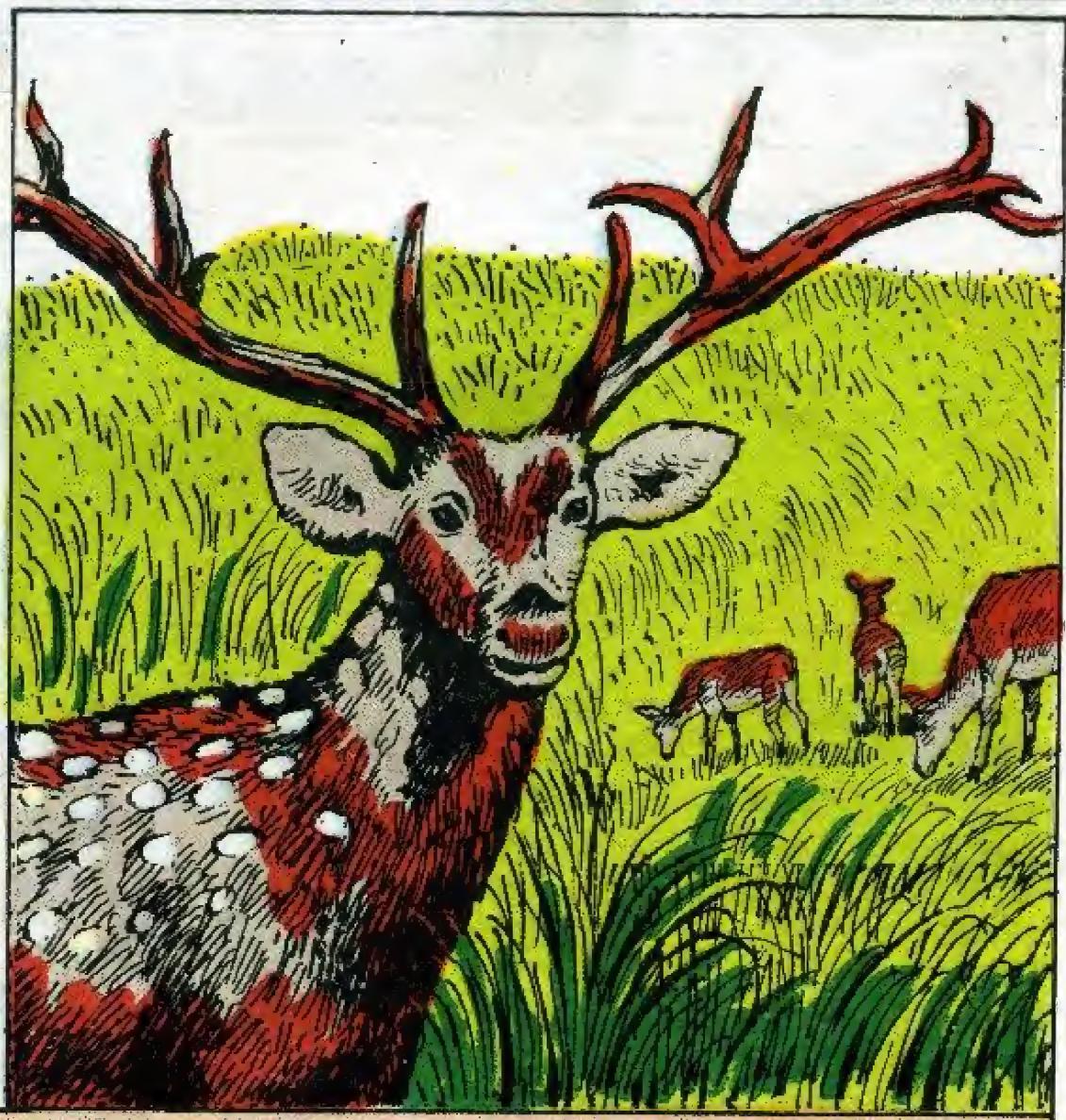


THE KINGDOM OF NEPAL

Script : Swapn Khandpur
Illustrations : S. K. Parab



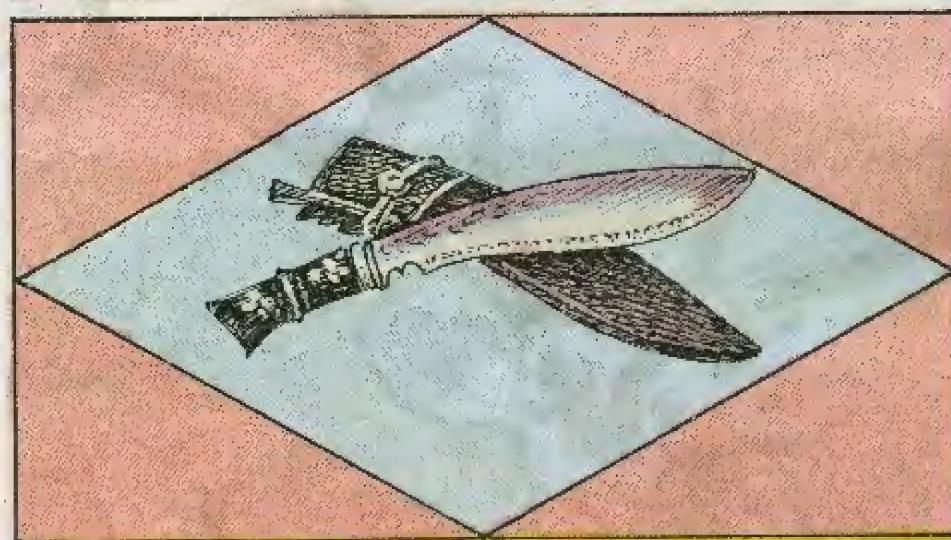
THE HIMALAYAN KINGDOM OF NEPAL HAS SOME OF THE HIGHEST MOUNTAINS IN THE WORLD. THE MIGHTIEST AMONG THEM IS MOUNT EVEREST WHICH THE NEPALESE VENERATE AS THE 'TALLEST GODDESS' IN THE WORLD.



IN THE TEMPERATE FORESTS OF THESE MOUNTAINS, THE RHODODENDRON SHRUBS GROW AS TALL AS TREES—SOMETIMES 15 METRES HIGH! NO WONDER THE RHODODENDRON IS THE NATIONAL FLOWER OF NEPAL. ALONG THE SOUTHERN BORDER OF NEPAL LIE THE DENSE SWAMPY JUNGLES OF THE TERAI. THIS REGION IS RICH IN WILD LIFE.



THE HARDY SHERPAS, LIKE THE GURKHAS, ARE WORLD FAMOUS AS GUIDES TO MOUNTAINEERING ENTHUSIASTS. TENZING NORGAY WHO SCALED MOUNT EVEREST WITH EDMUND HILLARY FOR THE FIRST TIME ON MAY 29, 1953 WAS A SHERPA.

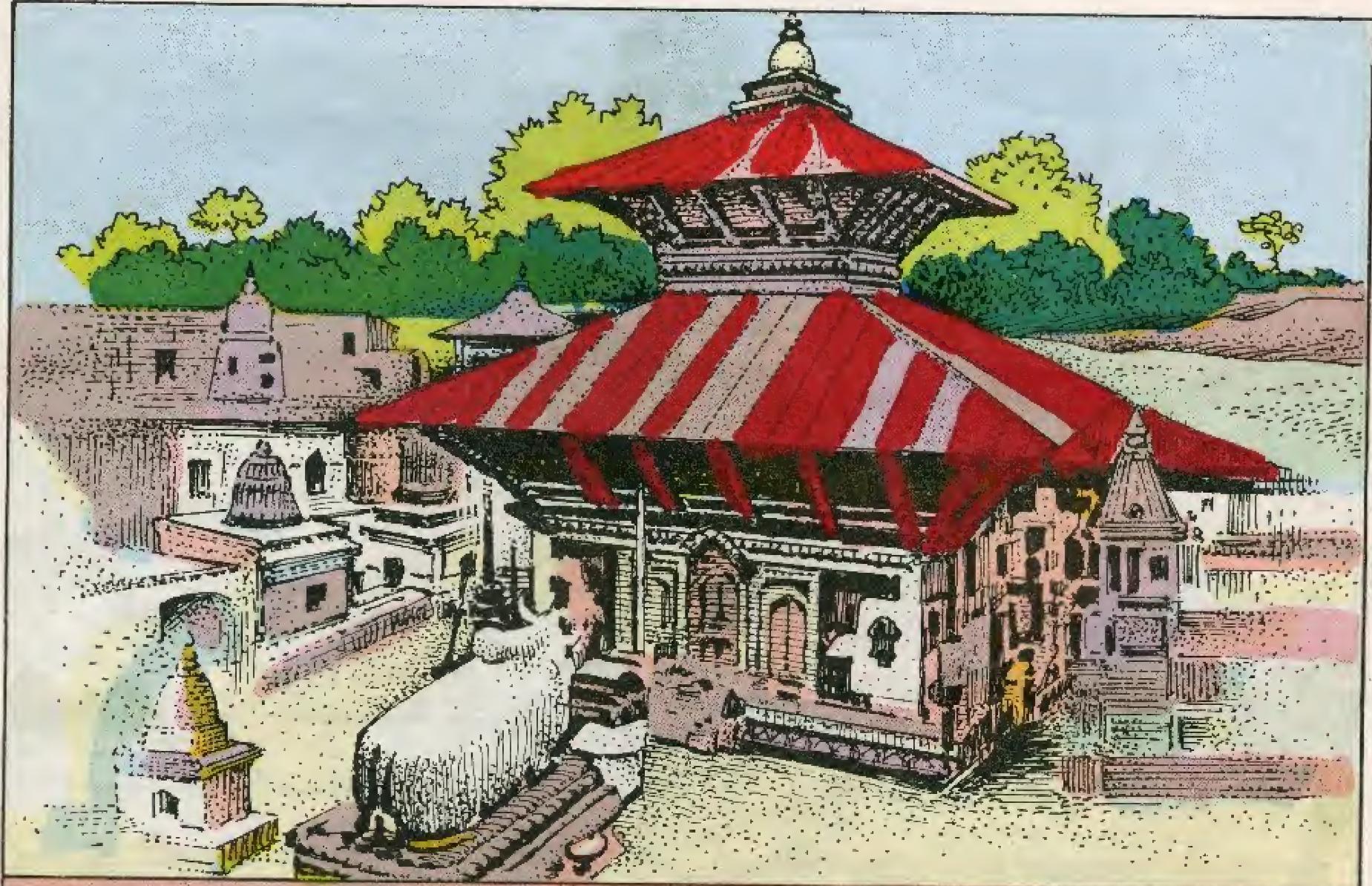


UNTIL THE 18TH CENTURY, NEPAL WAS MADE UP OF A NUMBER OF SMALL PRINCIPALITIES. IT WAS UNITED UNDER ONE RULE BY PRITHVI NARAYAN SHAH WITH HIS GURKHA SOLDIERS.

THE GURKHAS DERIVE THEIR NAME FROM THE TOWN OF GORKHA IN NEPAL. BRAVE AND LOYAL, THEY ARE RESPECTED THE WORLD OVER FOR THEIR VALOUR.

A GURKHA ALWAYS CARRIES THE 'KUKRI' THE TRADITIONAL NEPALESE KNIFE.

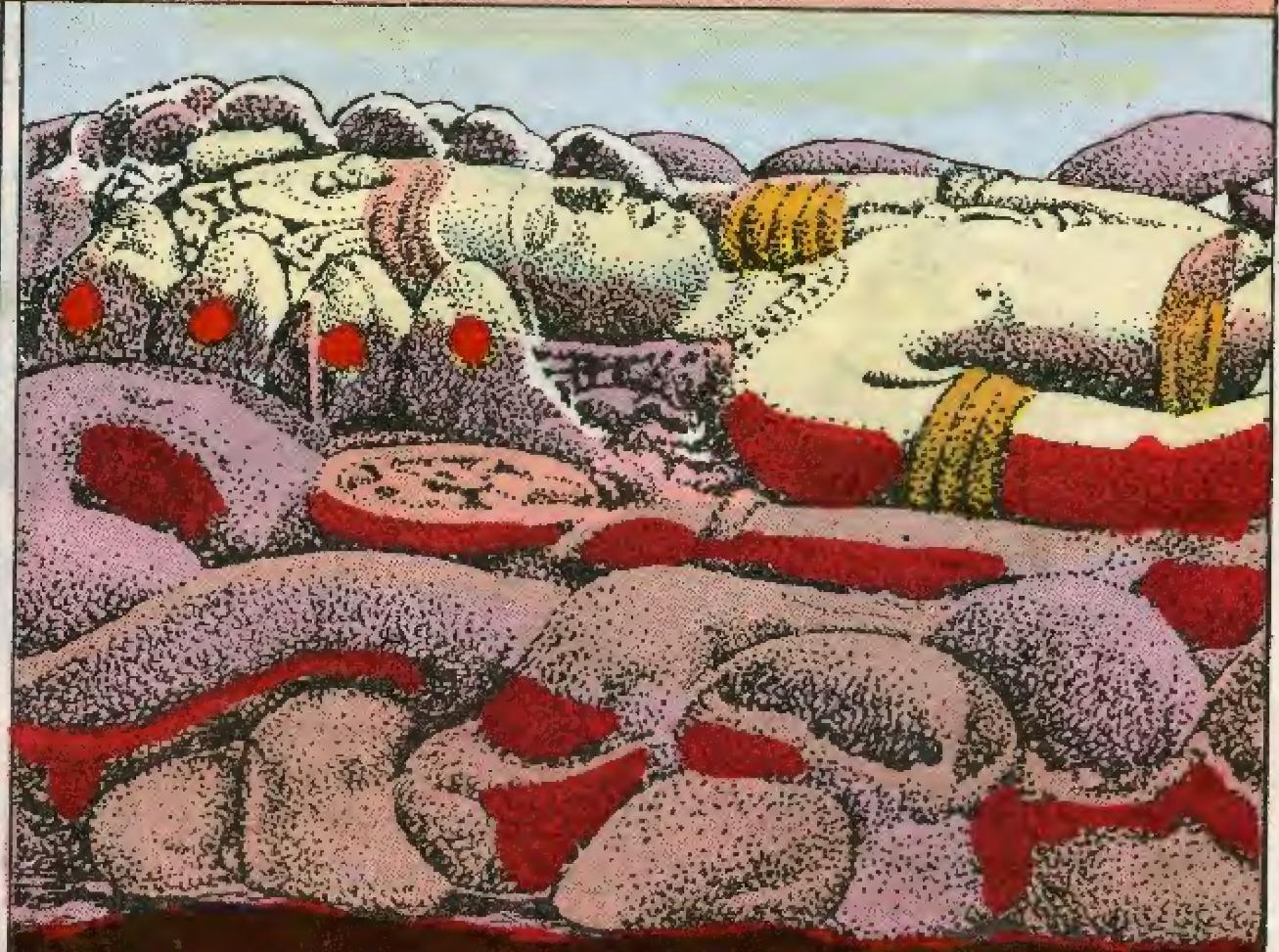




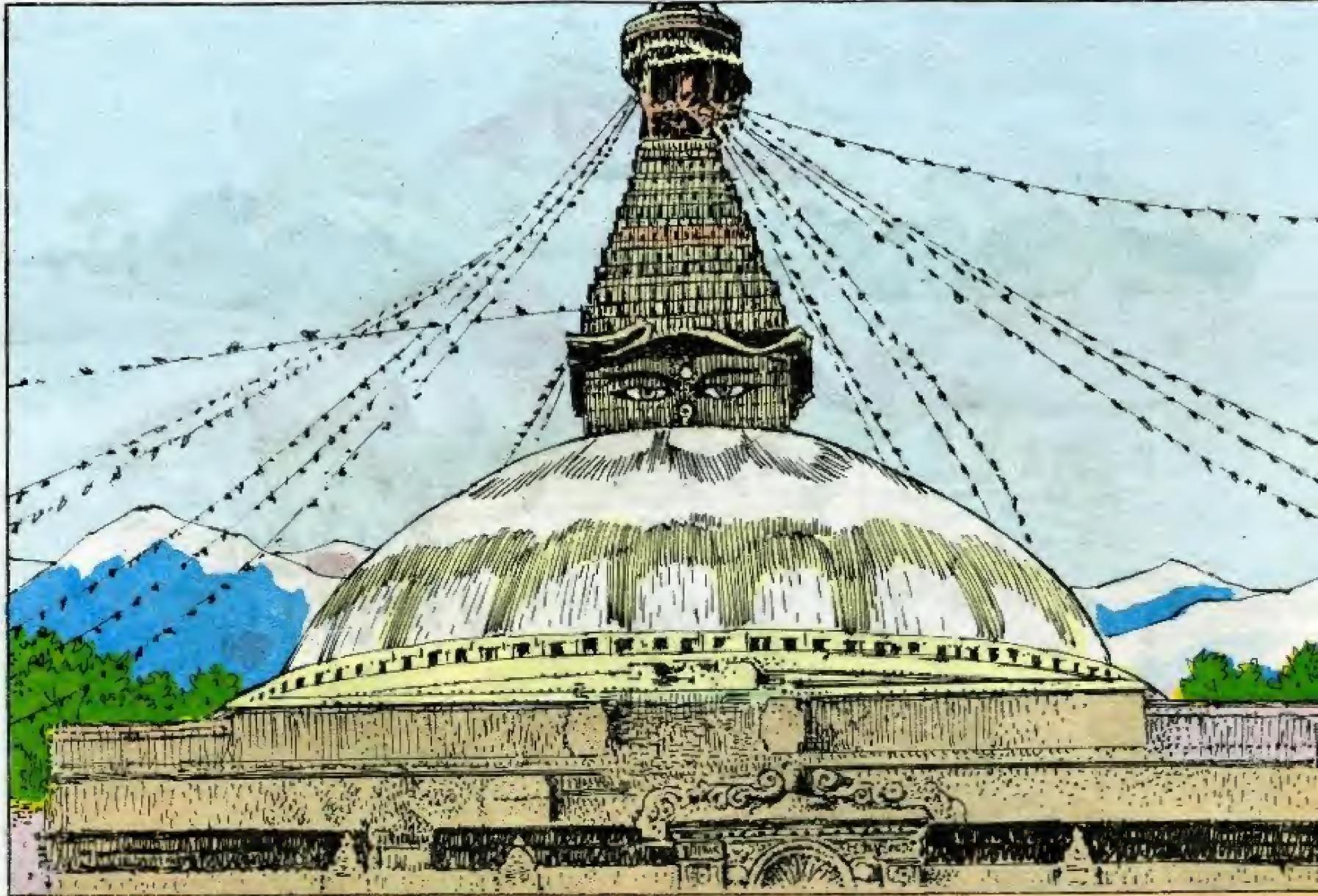
KATHMANDU IS THE CAPITAL OF NEPAL. HERE STANDS THE FAMOUS TEMPLE OF PASHUPATINATH DEDICATED TO SHIVA. ON MAHASHIVARATRI DAY, A LARGE NUMBER OF PILGRIMS VISIT THE SHRINE.



THE PAGODA STYLE OF ARCHITECTURE ORIGINATED IN NEPAL FROM THERE, IT SPREAD TO SOUTH EAST ASIA.



ANOTHER VERY SACRED PLACE FOR THE HINDUS IS NARAYANTHAN. HERE IN THE MIDDLE OF A POND LORD VISHNU RECLINES ON A MANY-HEADED SERPENT. NEPAL IS THE ONLY HINDU KINGDOM IN THE WORLD. THE KINGS ARE REGARDED AS INCARNATIONS OF LORD VISHNU.



THIS BUDDHIST SHRINE OF SWAYAMBHUNATH IS BELIEVED TO BE MORE THAN 2,000 YEARS OLD. GAUTAMA THE BUDDHA WAS BORN IN



THE SOUTHERN PART OF NEPAL, CLOSE TO THE INDIAN BORDER.

BUDDHISM, THEREFORE, IS AN IMPORTANT RELIGION OF NEPAL.

IN THIS TERRACOTTA TEMPLE OF MAHABUDDHA AT PATAN, EVERY BRICK BEARS THE IMAGE OF THE ENLIGHTENED ONE. PATAN, WHICH WAS KNOWN AS LALITPUR IN THE PAST, HAS LONG BEEN FAMOUS FOR ITS CARVINGS IN STONE AND METAL.





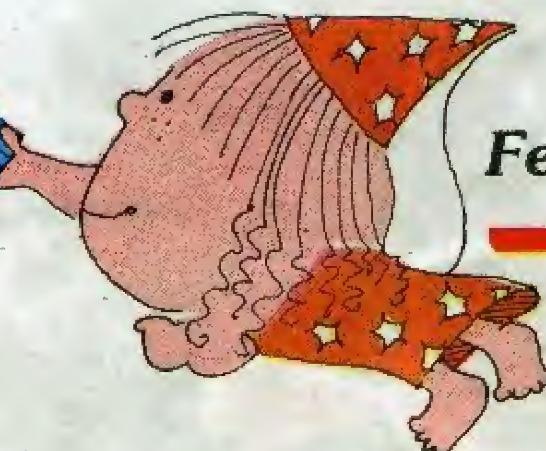
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